

LAST MONTH'S  
AVERAGE DAILY SALE  
428,000  
No 63,476

## Solidarity set for power as premier quits

### Walesa edges towards non-Communist 'coup'

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The way was cleared last night for the creation of the first non-Communist government in Eastern Europe since the war with the resignation of Mr Czeslaw Kiszczak, the Prime Minister of Poland.

His departure followed a meeting at which President Jaruzelski apparently accepted proposals by Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader, and the heads of the United Peasants' and Democratic parties to form a coalition government.

After a meeting of the three party chiefs yesterday, the President promised to work for the "quickest possible

appointment of such a government" but Mr Mieczyslaw Rakowski, the Communist Party leader, warned that it would amount to a coup.

"It seems that the desire to create a government without the Communist Party is aimed at the total takeover of power in Poland, leading up to a political coup," Mr Rakowski said.

He said: "The new government will be formed and run by Solidarity, though it is still difficult to say if the premier will be from, or outside of, the Solidarity parliamentary caucus."

It is for President Jaruzelski to propose to Parliament a suitable candidate for Prime Minister. His last choice, Mr Kiszczak, stumbled badly in his efforts to form a government combining the Communist, Solidarity and Peasant Party elements.

Much depends on Soviet willingness to accept the removal of the Communist Party from government.

The Kremlin this week sent rather ambiguous signals. Mr Walesa was attacked by *Pravda*, but a Foreign Ministry statement on Wednesday proved to be rather encouraging and certainly accepted his sincerity.

The East Germans and the Czechoslovaks are the most alarmed.

To ease the way, Solidarity deputies toned down the parliamentary statement of condemning the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia. In its original draft, by Mr Adam Michnik, the statement was a bald appeal to East Europeans to push their regimes hard towards reform. That would certainly have angered Prague. Communist

sized that this was not his intention. Another Solidarity leader, such as Professor Bronislaw Geremek, its parliamentary chief, was the more obvious choice, he said.

The problem of the premiership was not discussed in detail at the President's Palace yesterday. Rather, General Jaruzelski tried to establish if there was sufficient common ground between the three parties and if there were adequate guarantees for the nation's defence effort and internal security.

President Jaruzelski appears to have been satisfied with the intention of the three parties, though they are still a long way from establishing a joint economic or social programme.

Professor Geremek held talks with President Jaruzelski earlier in the day and emerged confident that a Solidarity government was now inevitable. He said: "The new government will be formed and run by Solidarity, though it is still difficult to say if the premier will be from, or outside of, the Solidarity parliamentary caucus."

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## A new heart and new hope from surgeon's 1,000th transplant



ROS DRINKWATER



Preparing to work throughout the night, Professor Magdi Yacoub, above, one of Britain's leading cardiac surgeons, pictured before he and his team performed their 1,000th transplant operation at Harefield Hospital, Middlesex, early yesterday. In an unusually long and

difficult operation, he gave a new heart to Simon Pashley, aged 17, of Cheshire, who has suffered an incurable condition since childhood (Thomson Press picture). Simon is pictured below with his mother, Mrs Sue Pashley. Administrators allowed The

Times to be present during the operation, which marked an unparalleled number of heart and heart-lung transplants in under ten years. In all 677 patients survive the operations, the first of which was performed at Harefield in January 1980. Full story, page 18

## Posgate and Grob cleared of charges

By Richard Ford  
Legal Affairs Reporter

Mr Ian Posgate, a top Lloyd's underwriter, was cleared yesterday of a multi-million pound conspiracy to steal insurance funds to buy a stake in a Swiss bank.

His co-defendant, Mr Kenneth Grob, the former chairman of Alexander Howden, a leading insurance broker, was also cleared of 16 charges of theft.

Both men, who had sat several feet apart during their 15-week trial, smiled and nodded their thanks to the jury of seven men and five women who had spent more than three days deliberating after a complex financial trial.

As he left Southwark Crown Court, Mr Posgate, aged 57, said he felt totally vindicated after a seven-year battle to clear his name.

Described as "the man with a Midas touch" because of his success in the Lloyd's insur-

ance market, he was in jubilant mood as he went for a celebratory drink with his lawyers.

Asked about his future, Mr Posgate, of Northing Hill, West London, said he had no intention or wish to return to Lloyd's.

Mr Posgate had denied conspiracy to steal and Mr Grob, former chairman of Alexander Howden, had denied 16 theft charges.

The Crown alleged that Mr Posgate - probably the best-known underwriter on the Lloyd's market - was lured into an illegal scheme. Millions of pounds were said to have been siphoned off into secret offshore holdings and used to purchase the Banque du Rhodé et de la Tamise.

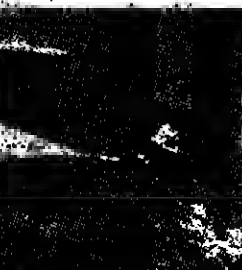
Mr Michael Hill, QC, the prosecuting counsel, said Mr Posgate had been tempted by the promise of vast rewards.

Mr Hill said that Mr Grob, aged 68, of Eaton Square, Belgrave, West London, had masterminded the scheme. He allegedly headed a "gang of four" executives from Alexander Howden who set up a scheme to channel company cash into secret offshore trusts using bogus reinsurance deals as a cover.

But Mr Grob said the contracts signed were legitimate reinsurance to the benefit of the broking group Mr Posgate also declared he was taking part in legitimate insurance dealing.

### TOMORROW

#### Rising from the ashes



Three years after fire devastated Christopher Wren's royal apartments for William and Mary at Hampton Court, devoted craftsmen and £12 million are bringing new life to the palace. Tomorrow, in colour, The Times looks at their progress

#### Plus

The Times experts get to grips with their food, drink, eating out, records, books, music, travel, museums, family money, gardening, sport...

#### PORTFOLIO BOND

Yesterday's £2,000 prize was shared by six people (see page 3). Today's game: page 25

### Market slump

A report published today by a firm of London consultants says that the fall in house prices will be long-term and that any recovery in the market will be slow... page 3

### World champion

Colin Sturgess, a 20-year-old professional cyclist from Leicester, won the world 5,000 metres pursuit gold medal at Lyons last night in his first attempt at the title... page 36

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## France sends aircraft carrier to Lebanon

By Our Foreign Staff

As fresh fighting flared along the Green Line dividing east and west Beirut yesterday, France announced that it was sending an aircraft carrier to the area.

The French Foreign Ministry said the 24,000-tonne Foch would "provide any assistance which may be necessary", which could mean the evacuation of the estimated 7,000 French nationals in Lebanon.

Although neither side used heavy artillery, the ceasefire was honoured more in the breach than the observance. Pro-Syrian gunners shelled

harbours north of Beirut in an attempt to stop arms supplies reaching General Michel Aoun, the Christian leader. In most areas of Beirut the sound of mortar shells and rocket-grenades exploding near the Green Line could be heard.

Diplomatic sources said shells had fallen close to the British Embassy and had hit the American mission in the previous 24 hours.

Mr Alain Decaux, a French junior minister, flew into the Christian enclave to continue diplomatic efforts.

Pressure on Damascus, page 8  
Spectrum, page 9

## Fowler pay-rise warning

By Colin Narborough  
Economics Correspondent

Mr Norman Fowler, the Employment Secretary, yesterday warned pay negotiations that setting pay by the "going rate" would bring job losses.

His warning was accompanied by labour-market figures which showed a slowdown in average earnings growth with a quarter point fall to 9 per cent in the year to June, compared with forecasts of a rise to 9.5 per cent on the way to 10 per cent.

In the 36th successive monthly fall, seasonally adjusted unemployment last month fell by 21,300 to 1,789,000.

Shares moved ahead and the pound firmed on the figures, but better-than-expected US trade figures later eliminated sterling's gains.

Details, page 19  
Comment, page 21

## Brake fault halts InterCity train fleet

By Michael Dynes, Transport Correspondent

British Rail yesterday announced the withdrawal of its entire fleet of Class 90 InterCity locomotives after the discovery of a faulty braking system. It also confirmed that a separate design fault caused the InterCity express crash at Harrow, north-west London, three weeks ago.

Thirty Class 90 electric locomotives, part of a consignment of 50 £1 million engines which began running between Euston and Glasgow 12 months ago, had to be taken out of service after discovery of a fault in a component of the train's pneumatic braking system.

The withdrawals caused extensive disruption to commuters using services between London, Birmingham and Manchester, although "there was never any danger to passengers," British Rail



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### No result nerves for the boy with nine A levels

By Douglas Broom  
Education Reporter

Paul Thompson had nothing to fear from the brown envelope which dropped on his doormat yesterday. It announced that he had passed six A levels, bringing his total in the last two years to nine.

All but two of the passes have been at grade A, placing the 18-year-old York public schoolboy within sight of a place in the *Guinness Book of Records*. Only the fact that the nine exams were not taken in the same year debarrd him.

This year he has A-grade, A-level passes in Physics, Chemistry, Further Maths, General Studies and Latin. He also passed Business Studies at grade B.

Last year Paul passed Maths and Economics at grade A, Greek at grade B and he picked up an S level in

Mathematics, earning a distinction. Impressive though his achievement was, compared to most sixth-formers labouring to pass the regulation three subjects, it was rendered even more exceptional because he studies some of the subjects

### Teacher training... page 2

in his own time. Last year's Greek A level was won entirely on the basis of home study after school and this year he prepared himself for the Latin and Business Studies exams.

His near-record A-level performance followed an equally impressive 14 O levels.

Paul, a day pupil at St Peter's School, York, goes up to University College, Oxford, to read Greats this October.

Despite his awesome achievements, Paul appears to scale the academic heights with equanimity. "I wasn't really too worried about my results this year after doing quite well last year," he said yesterday.

In the moments between studying, Paul also finds time to indulge his passion for music, playing the piano and violin and has composed for both instruments. "I like to keep my interests as broad as possible," he said. "I dislike it when people talk about me being a genius - I just enjoy what I do."

The record for the greatest number of A levels taken at a single sitting is held by Stephen Murrell, who achieved eight passes - seven at grade A - at Crown Woods School, Eltham, South-east London in 1978.



## NEWS ROUNDUP

## Powder found in baby milk 'safe'

Water scale particles found by a mother as she was preparing bottled milk for her baby, are harmless, a neonatal paediatrician said yesterday (Jill Sherman writes).

The mother discovered a reddish-black substance in a bottle of SMA milk feed at the Bristol Maternity Hospital on Tuesday. The powder was later found to be minuscule particles of iron and said due to water scale which had been caused during the vacuum sealing process at the food manufacturers.

When nursing staff examined a batch of the baby feed they found several more bottles with brown powder on the jar lids. Bristol and Weston health authorities returned the batch to the manufacturers and immediately sent out an alert on a warning network to other maternity hospitals.

Last night, however, Dr Peter Fleming, neonatal consultant paediatrician at the Bristol Maternity said that the amount of iron and other salts were in such small quantities that they were of "no risk whatsoever".

Wyeth Laboratories, the manufacturers, said that tests carried out on the recalled bottles from Bristol hospital showed that the particles on the bottle caps were harmless.

## Funeral awaits word

Mr Paul Cooper, brother of Mr Roger Cooper, the British businessman held without trial in Iran since 1985, said last night that he would delay his mother's funeral if the Iranian authorities would give some indication that they might allow Roger home for the service. So far there has been no response to an offer from Paul's son Simon, aged 17, to go to Iran to stand surety for his uncle. Dr Roseleen Cooper's funeral is due to take place tomorrow at 2.30pm.

## No truces, IRA says

The Provisional IRA said yesterday that there would be "no ceasefire and no truces" in Northern Ireland until British troops were withdrawn (Edward Gorman writes). "We will, through inflicting continued and unsustainable losses, break the will of the British government to stay in our country," IRA spokesmen were quoted as saying in an interview with *Republican News*.

Soldier dies, page 3

## 'Silicon Dale' mooted

Plans for a £25 million high-tech research and manufacturing centre in Bradford, West Yorkshire, that will be the first in Europe, have been submitted to Bradford council. Chase Advanced Technologies Ltd has already won permission to build a technology/business park, EuroCam, on a 31-acre site in Bradford. The new plan could create more than 3,000 jobs and attract scientists and technologists from around the world.

## Water authority fined

Yorkshire Water Authority was yesterday fined £1,000 for polluting two waterways. The prosecution was brought by Kirkstall Council, West Yorkshire, and is believed to be the first such prosecution by a local council. The authority admitted breaching government regulations at its Birkenshaw sewage works, near Bradford, and its Nelly works, near Huddersfield, but said that it has since rectified the problems.

## TUC recruiting drive

The TUC is planning a recruitment drive to reverse the decline in union membership, down from 12 million a decade ago to 8.7 million today, according to a report released last night (Roland Rudd writes). *Organising for the 1990s*, to be presented to the Trades Union Congress in Blackpool next month, says that union membership is weakest in growth areas of the economy. It identifies five key groups where recruitment is particularly hard, including among the young.

## Backbenchers opt for single unit sale of BR

By Michael Dynes  
Transport Correspondent

An embryonic consensus in favour of privatizing the railways as a single unit is emerging among leading Conservative backbenchers, after a discreet lobbying campaign by Sir Robert Reid, the chairman of British Rail.

Overall support for the principle of privatization remains strong. However, backbench sentiment appears to be turning against government proposals to transform BR into a track authority — leasing lines out to private operators of breaking the network up into regional companies.

Sir Robert met more than 80 Conservative backbenchers between January and May to argue that the controversial track authority and regional options would be a "great

mistake", and is believed to have come away with the impression "they are now less convinced about the viability of a break-up".

Sir Robert is believed to have argued forcefully that the creation of a track authority, in which private companies compete to run trains, would create "insurmountable operational difficulties", while the regional companies idea would create "formidable timetabling problems" for cross-country services, and "could not be made profitable".

Three separate reports on the viability of the privatization options are due to be completed next month, before Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Secretary of State for Transport, is expected to put the government privatization plans to the Conservative Party conference in October.

The reports — one conducted by Deloitte Haskins and Sells, the

accountants, and commissioned by the Department of Transport; another by Lazard Brothers and Coopers and Lybrand, the investment banking and accounting companies, for BR; and a second department study by Samuel Montagu, the merchant bankers — are said to favour the creation of a private limited company.

The future of BR is thought to depend on whether Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Mr Parkinson are prepared to accept this advice. However, Mr Parkinson is said to have "an open mind on the subject", raising expectations that BR could be bived off as a single unit.

There remains, however, a hard core of Conservative MPs who are expected to campaign vigorously for the creation of a track authority or the formation of regional firms, who have been emboldened by what is

widely seen as BR's poor performance in the recent dispute with the National Union of Railwaymen.

It is thought the backbenchers will lobby for what is known as the "piecemeal option" for privatization, in which the construction of the Channel tunnel rail link between Folkestone and London — to be built and operated in a joint venture between BR and the private sector — could be seen as a precedent for privatization.

The lobby favouring the breaking up of British Rail is expected to push hard for the "privatization of InterCity", the national passenger network which made a £57 million profit in 1988-89.

However, the remaining operating arms of BR, Network South-East, Provincial, Freight and Parcels, could only be made financially viable if passenger fares and

freight charges were increased substantially — an option regarded as politically suicide.

Rail retains a modest 8 per cent of the transport market, and "there is a major snag in picking out the strawberries for privatization and leaving all the cherry pips in the public sector", according to sources.

Even if it is decided that the industry should be privatized in the form favoured by British Rail, in one unit, it is unlikely to occur before 1997 — the earliest date at which BR is expected to show a sufficient return to attract private investors.

Meanwhile, a series of opinion polls conducted by BR show that only 21 per cent of the population support privatization in any form, 20 per cent are unsure, and 59 per cent feel it should not be sold to the private sector.

## Patten defends poll tax against Tory and Labour critics

By Robin Oakley  
Political Editor

Mr Christopher Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, yesterday responded to continued Tory agitation about the community charge with a strong defence of the tax, as being both fair and intelligible.

In a clear signal that there will be no government back-down on the poll tax, Mr Patten countered the Tory pressures with a sharp attack on Labour's alternatives to the community charge which, he said, showed that "raiding the people's pockets comes at the top of their list".

Mr Patten chose a letter to Mr Irvine Patnick, a Tory whip and the chairman of the Conservative National Local Government Advisory Committee, for his first considered public defence of the poll tax.

He said that in every election he had ever fought, people had complained bitterly about the injustices of domestic rates.

Mr Patten said that no one starting with a blank sheet of paper and devising a system of paying for local government would insist that a house full of wage-earners should pay the same as a single pensioner next door, as happened with

the rates. Nor would they have a system of grants which meant that one local authority charged more than another for the same service, or let a firm's competitiveness be undermined by allowing a spendthrift council to pass on its extravagance to companies in the area.

The only wonder, Mr Patten said, was that rates had survived so long.

If the Government had not acted to replace them, there would have had to have been the first revaluation of domestic properties since 1973, bringing "chaos and upheaval" in England and Wales like that in Scotland in 1985.

Mr Patten said: "It would be unthinkable to go through this agony merely to prop up a rotten and discredited rating system."

Attacking Labour, the Secretary of State said it had invented not one but two new unpopular taxes, which were worse than the existing rating system.

Of the Labour plans for capital value rating linked to a local income tax, he said: "Individually they are bad; together they represent the worst of all worlds."

Capital value rates represented a tax on home owner-

ship which tenants had to pay as well. He asked: "Why on earth should a council tenant pay a higher local tax when the value of his council flat goes up?"

Pensioners, he said, would suffer when the areas around them became "gentrified".

The effect of a local income tax, Mr Patten said, would be "a new and terrifying weapon in the hands of the hand left".

Coupled with Labour's plans to abolish controls on council spending, it would be the green light for socialist municipal extravagance, with devastating consequences for those who had to pay for it.

By contrast, Mr Patten said, the community charge replaced the injustices of rates with a "simpler, fairer and more intelligible system".

Everyone would "pay their bit" towards the cost of local government and those who could not afford to, would get help.

The very poorest, on income support, would have their benefit topped up to make sure they could pay.

The rich would pay more than the poor, as they should, "but everyone will have some understanding of the costs as well as the benefits of local government."

## First tag device is fitted



Mr Richard Hart and his wife Sue. His decision to take part in the electronic tagging scheme created legal history. Inset: How the device is attached to the defendant's leg.

## Decision 'not an easy one'

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

The first defendant in Britain to be fitted with an electronic tag spoke yesterday of his fears that the terms of his bail could make him feel like a prisoner in his own home.

Mr Richard Hart, in a statement issued by his solicitors shortly after he was fitted with the tag in the cells below Nottingham Magistrates' Court, said that agreeing to enter the legal record books had not been an easy decision.

The movements of Mr Hart, aged 23, who is accused of theft and burglary, will be monitored by computer until his case comes to trial. He has been remanded on bail on condition he wears the tag at

all times and stays at his home from noon to 9am every day.

He said: "Agreeing to be tagged was not an easy decision because it could be like being a prisoner in my home."

Mr Hart's "electronic bail" was delayed for 24 hours on Monday while engineers from British Telecom and Marconi, the main equipment supplier, installed a telephone and receiver in his home.

Signals emitted from the tag, fitted to one of his ankles, will be transmitted by telephone link to a computer, monitored by private security guards, at the near by magistrates courts. If the defendant moves more than 200ft

from the telephone the guards will be alerted.

The National Association of Probation Officers said it believed tagging would not be used, as intended, as a "genuine alternative to custody".

A spokesman added: "We also think the requirement that BT or the equipment suppliers should be allowed access to the defendant's home at any time to check the equipment amounts to a major invasion of privacy."

The Home Office hopes that during the experiment, being conducted by three courts, about 150 remand defendants will be tagged.

## Minister replies to union's fears of lower professional standards

## Rumbold defends new teacher training plan

By Douglas Broom and Sam Kiley

The Government's new on-the-job training scheme for teachers will be "more rigorous" than the system it replaces, Mrs Angela Rumbold, Minister of State at the Department of Education and Science, said.

Refuting claims by teachers' unions that the Licensed Teacher scheme would lower professional standards by allowing non-graduates into teaching, Mrs Rumbold said standards would, if anything, be higher in future.

The scheme, under which people aged more than 26 with at least two years post-school education will be paid to train as teachers in schools, will start next month.

Commenting on the formal publication of regulations governing the scheme, Mrs Rumbold said: "Streamlining the routes to Qualified

Teacher Status will help schools and local authorities secure the teachers they need."

"It will allow mature, well-qualified people who want to turn to teaching in mid-career to do so without having to return to life as a full-time student."

"The new route will also make it easier for teachers from overseas to take up posts in our schools — their skills and expertise are welcome."

"The new system will be more rigorous than the one it replaces, ensuring that unqualified teachers receive the training they need. Before being awarded QTS they must have demonstrated a level of competence equivalent to that of other new teachers."

The National Union of Teachers said the fact that licensed teachers would actually be taking classes within a few weeks of starting training

made a mockery of Mrs Rumbold's claim of increased rigour.

British students and workers will lose out in competition with their European counterparts unless the Government coordinates a national plan for the teaching of foreign languages, the Association of Language Learning warned yesterday (Sam Kiley writes).

In an open letter to Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, Mrs Christine Wilding, secretary general of the association, said that the Government should also provide more resources and provisions in language teaching if Britain is to remain competitive.

The Government expects a shortfall of 2,500 in the number of foreign language teachers required to deliver the national curriculum by 1995 and the association warned yesterday that

competition from industry and higher education could worsen the situation.

In her letter Mrs Wilding said ministers should also provide money for teachers to update their language skills with trips abroad, reduce the size of classes to those "usually reserved for other practical subjects" and encourage women to return to language teaching by laying on free creche facilities for mothers.

Two more schools were given conditional approval to opt out of local authority control yesterday.

Mrs Rumbold said Ribston Hall High School, Gloucester, and Beechen Cliff Secondary School, Bath, could become grant-maintained schools from April 1 next year.

Her decision brings the number of schools which have been given permission to opt out to 23.

## Faulty brake halts InterCity engines

Continued from page 1  
written by Mr David Rayner, managing director, operations and engineering, and was sent to Mr David Blake, director of mechanical and electrical engineering, and Mr Maurice Holmes, director of safety.

British Rail said last night: "Urgent steps were taken within hours of the accident. The whole fleet of just over 400 vehicles was checked within 48 hours. Sixteen coaches were found to have defects, but none was in such

condition that there was any immediate danger. All have since been repaired."

The Harrow crash occurred after the alternator cradle came away from the carriage underside, became enmeshed in the wheels, derailing the 70 mph train.

In response to public concern over rail safety, British Rail said: "In addition to regular maintenance and safety checks on the vehicles, full routine examinations of major components will now take place more frequently."

## Last circus school may close

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

Britain's only circus school will close next month unless it can raise £40,000 by the start of the new academic year.

Foot Time, which last year trained 1,000 students as trapeze artists, jugglers and circus clowns, faces a cash crisis because its £79,000 grant income for the year is not enough to cover its costs.

Ironically, the threat to the school's future comes as it is about to have its qualifications validated by the British Accreditation Council, a step which enable it to charge higher fees.

The school, which is based in a converted Victorian church hall in the St Agnes area of Bristol, offers full, part-time and evening courses catering for students aged from 16 to 64.

It is supported by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, the Arts Council and local authorities. Many of its graduates are in Edinburgh this week performing as part of the Festival Fringe.

In an effort to draw wider attention to the school's problems two still walkers set out on Wednesday on a six foot

high tandem ride to Maastrecht, The Netherlands, to lobby the International Juggling Convention on August 31.

One of the school's founders, Miss Audrey Mitchell, said yesterday that its policy of subsidising the cost of its courses to ensure that they could be afforded by ordinary people had led them into their present financial plight.

"Most of the grant we have received has gone into providing equipment," she said.

## Democrats face title clash

By Our Political Editor

The Democrats are heading for a series of disputes at their party conference in Brighton next month, despite appeals from Mr Paddy Ashdown, the Social and Liberal Democrats leader, for a demonstration of unity.

At a press conference yesterday to launch the agenda, Sir William Goodhart, the conference committee chair-

man, admitted that an emergency motion for a debate on changing the party's short title to Liberal Democrats had been received from Mr Leighton Andrews, an activist.

Mr Ashdown has urged representatives in a letter to ignore the call because the full membership is to be balloted on the question after the conference. Those registered for the conference are being

balloted on whether they want the topic raised at the Brighton conference, which takes place from September 9 to 15.

Further trouble looms with a proposed amendment to a defence motion that would commit the party to opposition to the Trident programme and to working for a non-nuclear NATO. If passed, that would be a direct snub to Mr Ashdown.

## Glasgow may join Edinburgh Festival

By Simon Tait  
Arts Correspondent

The Edinburgh Festival could alternate between Edinburgh and Glasgow in future, Mr Frank Dunlop, the festival's director, said yesterday.

He said the proposal was one that councils of both cities might wish to discuss together. In answer to a report that the festival might go to Glasgow next year, when it has been designated as Europe's City of Culture, he said: "I think you are bringing up affairs of enormous moment which would have to be discussed at national level."

Mr Dunlop called for better planning by the Edinburgh Festival Board and the two cities. "I think it is madness for both cities not to collabo-

rate on their cultural planning," he said. The Edinburgh-Glasgow relationship was good for the arts in Scotland and in Britain.

There have been fears that Glasgow, home to the Scottish National Orchestra and Scottish National Opera, and with a new concert hall being built, could take audiences from next year's Edinburgh Festival.

Mr Dunlop said he thought the good relationship between the two cities led to people being excited about the arts, "just as they used to be excited about football at one time".

He said the Edinburgh Festival, the world's biggest arts festival, was experiencing a box office boom which had taken organizers by surprise in spite of hopes that last year's record of £1 million in receipts

would be surpassed soon after the opening.

Mr Dunlop said box office takings were the best for 10 years. "It's quite shattering because we had no idea it would hit us like this."

"A great deal of it has been the excitement and interest in the productions from Spain and a great deal of it too has been the interest built up by the media to cultural affairs in general."

Spain has been the central theme of the festival, although the two versions of Oscar Wilde's *Salome* — Steven Berkoff's controversial production with the Gate Theatre of Dublin and the Richard Strauss musical version by the Festival Finkopiera — have attracted the most interest.

Two-thirds of available

seats for the festival were booked out by Wednesday. Mr Dunlop said there had never been more than 40 per cent to 50 per cent at this stage.

● The Berkoff production of *Salome* is to be restaged at the National Theatre, London, it was announced yesterday.

Berkoff will play the role of Herod in his own adaptation of Wilde's controversial play — which was banned in Britain for 40 years — opening at the Lyttelton Theatre on the South Bank on November 7 with a National Theatre cast.

Boxing The Times overseas  
Australia \$25.00; Belgium £15.00; Canada \$25.00; Denmark 250.00; France 250.00; Germany 250.00; Greece 250.00; Hong Kong \$25.00; India 250.00; Italy 250.00; Japan 250.00; Korea 250.00; Malaysia 250.00; Mexico 250.00; New Zealand 250.00; Norway 250.00; Portugal 250.00; Singapore 250.00; South Africa 250.00; Spain 250.00; Sweden 250.00; Switzerland 250.00; Taiwan 250.00; Thailand 250.00; USA \$25.00; Venezuela 250.00.

## Wider curbs on media are opposed

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

The newspaper and television interests in Britain of Mr Rupert Murdoch should not be curtailed by new media ownership restrictions because of the detrimental effect on competition and consumer choice, according to a News International submission to ministers published today.

A 40-page document on competition, diversity and cross-media ownership has been produced by News International in response to demands by a commercial rival to prevent Mr Murdoch owning newspaper titles and a television network at the same time.

Mr Murdoch is chief executive of News International, publishers of *The Sun*, *News of the World* and *Today's Sun*. Television, which launched three new satellite television stations in February, is a subsidiary of News International along with *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*. British Satellite Broadcasting, which is

due to launch up to five new satellite television channels next year and a rival of Sky, has complained about the relationship between News International newspaper titles and Sky. Last month it sent a memo to government departments and urged ministers to extend planned cross-media ownership rules.

Under existing proposals on national newspaper ownership will be allowed to hold more than a 20 per cent share of any independent television channel, but the restrictions will not extend to the Sky network, which beams programmes to British homes via the Astra satellite.

The News International response comes amid growing speculation that Sir Gordon Borrie, director general of the Office of Fair Trading, will soon ask the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to conduct a formal inquiry into media ownership in the United Kingdom. Ms Jane Reed, director of corporate relations at News International, said yes-

terday: "Our document demonstrates that there is no undue concentration of media ownership, no evidence of management threats to editorial independence and no inappropriate cross-media influence."

In its response, News International accuses BSB of basing its claims on arguments that predate the introduction of multi-channel television, and says it has misinterpreted what happens in America and Australia. "News International dominates neither the media market, nor the print segment, nor the television broadcasting segment. Nor has it engaged in any practices that distort competition."

Mr Edward Bickham, BSB's director of external affairs, said last night: "There can be no objection to News International investing in satellite television, but they should be subjected to a maximum 20 per cent ownership threshold."



## Consultants predict fall in house prices will be long-term

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

House prices are set for a long-term fall in real terms, followed by a slow recovery in the 1990s, a firm of consultants concludes in its gloomy forecast of the housing market, published today.

In addition, a report published today by the Building Societies Association says the number of homebuyers who are six to 12 months behind with mortgage repayments increased by one fifth in the first half of this year.

However, the number of homes repossessed in the first six months of 1989 fell slightly, allaying fears that the three mortgage increases implemented since last summer could lead to a big rise in the number of people losing their homes.

Spicers Consulting Group, part of the accounting and business advisory firm of Spicer & Oppenheim, says the most optimistic forecast shows a 10 per cent fall in prices this year and a further 10 per cent fall in 1990, followed by slow recovery.

Alternatively, the consultants suggest that the same initial fall could be followed by a steady decline similar to that in West Germany, where prices have fallen in nominal terms for a number of years.

The third possibility is that there will be a sharper fall this year, followed by a slow recovery in line with rising incomes by the end of 1990.

The consultants say the current fall in prices is not a blip, but a long-term change in market conditions. They say the current high level of

interest rates is only one contributory factor; the fall in the number of people aged 25 looking for first-time homes until the end of the century and changing expectations and fears of losses could all drive prices down further.

In addition, the consultants point out that the Government clearly intends to use monetary discipline to hold the inflation rate at or below the European average.

The group predicts that the changing market will make competition keener. It says some building societies lack the capability to achieve minimal volumes of mortgage business at adequate interest rates, and suggests that "These should reposition themselves as savings banks or retailers of financial services even if the provisions of the Building Societies Act mean that such a strategy requires incorporation or merger."

Meanwhile, the report published by the Building Societies Association says that 45,100 building society mortgages were six to 12 months in arrears at the end of June, compared to 37,440 at the end of last year, a rise of 20.5 per cent. A further 9,260 mortgages were more than one year in arrears at the end of June, compared to 8,930 last December.

However, in spite of this depressing trend, the number of homes repossessed in the first six months of this year was 6,350, a slight fall on the 6,380 homes taken back from householders in the second

half of last year. The latest figure for repossessions is also considerably lower than the peak of 11,700 in the first half of 1987. Since then building societies have taken more trouble to discuss with borrowers their ability to maintain repayments both before and after loans are agreed.

Although the sharp increase in the number of borrowers in arrears could suggest that many more homes are likely to be repossessed, societies are offering help in the form of interest-only payments and deferred payment schemes to try to stave off repossessions.

Mr Mark Boleat, director-general of the association, said yesterday that the increase in arrears was probably linked to three factors: the high level of house prices compared to earnings, which meant many buyers had stretched their budgets; the rush to beat the August 1 deadline last year on multiple tax relief for joint buyers, which may have meant some decisions to buy were taken too hastily; and the substantial increase in interest rates in the past year.

In the past, there had been no discernible link between arrears and the cost of borrowing, Mr Boleat said. Divorce or redundancy were usually the main triggers for mortgage problems. However, high interest rates and high house prices may have combined to produce a short-term increase in arrears.

*The Market Turns Down:* (Spicers Consulting Group, Friary Court, Crutched Friars, London EC3 3L5).

## Going ... going ... the great sky spectacle



The eclipse as seen in central London and (below) across the Atlantic, its five phases in multiple exposure over the skyline of Toronto, Canada.



The moon blushed a dark red before disappearing in eclipse over Britain, between 2.20am and 3.20am yesterday (Pearce Wright writes). It was the first eclipse in 20 years to be seen from five continents. Where the skies were clear, observers reported a spectacular show of light and colour. Partial eclipses of the moon generally occur

twice a year, but happen mainly in the early hours of the morning and are seen by few people.

Yesterday's event began as the moon rose golden orange in colour and turned darker before it winked out altogether. In theory, the eclipse should have been in view to more than a billion people because the alignment

that caused the Earth's shadow to fall across the moon occurred along a track crossing North and South America, western Europe and Africa and Antarctica.

Lunar eclipses occur when the moon passes through the shadow created by the Earth, blocking the sun's light. The moon, in its orbit of the Earth,

usually passes above or below this shadowline, but it occasionally follows a path that shades it completely for a time. The London Weather Centre said: "The last eclipse was in February but could not be seen over Britain. It is unusual to have such a good view in this country because it is often cloudy or raining."

## Salmonella controls 'not enough'

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Government measures to prevent the spread of *salmonella enteritidis* in fresh chilled chickens are inadequate, the latest investigations into the infection to be published today show.

Moreover, the scientists report that the virulent *enteritidis* strain of bacterium, which was unknown in broiler chicks before 1979, has become the dominant *salmonella*.

Their survey confirms that *salmonella enteritidis* PT4 is a serious hazard to human health from broiler chicks. "All measures to control human food poisoning with *enteritidis* must now be directed both at egg and the poultry meat production aspects of the industry." The inadequacy of the guidelines for controlling infection were shown in the analysis

of 20 fresh chilled chickens bought from retail stores over a four-week period. Eight were infected with *enteritidis*.

The findings from a team working with Dr Anita Rampling, at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, and the Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale, north London, are described in the latest issue of *The Lancet*.

The new measures intended to curtail the spread of the bacteria at the factory stage involved additional tests. Previously, chickens were consigned as unfit for consumption if they had signs of *enteritidis* infection of the gut. The new guidelines called for meat to be rejected if there were signs of pericarditis, an inflammation of the tissue surrounding the heart.

The scientists report widespread contamination during processing, even

though birds with obvious signs of infection are condemned and removed from the processing line by meat inspectors.

A verdict of misadventure was recorded on Mrs Greta Karpel, aged 90, of Litchfield Court, Sheen Road, Richmond, south-west London. She died of heart disease which may have been provoked by salmonella poisoning, the coroner was told.

A firm of butchers, Haighs Ltd. of Pow Street, Worthington, is to be prosecuted after a salmonella outbreak caused by pork pies in which two people died.

Forty people are bringing civil actions. A British video on food hygiene is to be distributed to hotels, restaurants and food outlets in the Spanish resort of Benidorm so staff have the latest health information.

## Ulster death

### Soldier is shot by accident

By Edward Gorman, Irish Affairs Correspondent

A soldier was shot dead accidentally while on duty at barracks in Londonderry at about 7pm on Tuesday.

Private Mason, aged 18 and single, was a member of the Staffordshire regiment serving with the first battalion, The Royal Hampshire Regiment. His death comes after that of Marine Adam Gilbert, aged 21, who died on June 5 after being shot in the head when his night patrol opened fire on a runaway car on the Antrim Road in north Belfast.

The Army said that Private Mark Anthony Mason died after being shot in the neck by another soldier while they were on duty at Clooney army

barracks in the Waterside area of Londonderry at about 7pm on Tuesday.

Mr Nicholas Vogel, of West Berlin, is accused of having a magazine for a firearm in suspicious circumstances. He was previously thought to be an American citizen.

During the three-minute hearing he said nothing. A detective inspector told the court that, when arrested and charged, Mr Vogel replied: "I gave every explanation so far why this magazine was in the car."

in a Belfast court on an arms charge yesterday.

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Leading article, page 11

## Chemical leak

The £2,000 Portfolio Bond has been shared by six winners. They are Mr G H Cullart of Lindfield, West Sussex; Marianne Hirtzel of Hammersmith, west London; Mr F M Toplis of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands; Kathleen Brice of Lincoln; Mr H Taylor of Liverpool and Mrs J Cardinal of Shrewsbury.

Nine firemen and an ambulance officer were among 25 people treated to hospital yesterday after being affected by fumes leaking from a 25-litre drum of ethyl acrylate, a corrosive chemical, at a derelict chemicals plant at Darlaston, West Midlands.

## Brother of runner gets three years

The younger brother of Linford Christie, the Olympic sprinter, was jailed for three years yesterday for kidnapping and beating up his former girlfriend.

Judge McLean told Russell Christie, aged 26, at the Central Criminal Court: "This was a vicious and violent attack for which there can be no excuse." He criticized Christie's demeanour in court as "cocky".

Christie, of Richmond Street, Shepherd's Bush, west London, was found guilty of kidnapping Miss Zoe Groves, aged 19, last January and causing her grievous bodily harm with intent.

He has three previous convictions for violence and is unemployed.

The jury heard that after the beating, Miss Groves's face was so badly swollen that her mother did not immediately recognize her.

Miss Groves, a children's nanny, said that after an argument over the telephone following the ending of their affair, Christie had turned up at her flat in Alexander Road, South Harrow, with a baseball bat.

He forced her into his Mercedes, repeatedly hitting her in the face as he drove. Miss Groves tried to jump out of the moving car but Christie pulled her back. She escaped after being held prisoner for four hours.

## Air strike threat

### Check in, BA passengers told

By Roland Rodd, Employment Affairs Reporter

British Airways yesterday urged passengers to ignore a threatened 24-hour strike today on its domestic and European destinations and advised them to check in as normal for all flights.

The Transport and General Workers' Union called the strike over the dismissal of an air stewardess. Mr George Ryde, national secretary of the union's civil aviation group, predicted that most short-haul routes would be seriously affected.

He said that more stoppages would be called if management did not reinstate the stewardess, who is alleged to have taken drinks from an aircraft's Club class, where they are free, to economy class, where they are not.

"This is the first time that

British Airways has taken such a draconian measure against a cabin crew member," Mr Ryde said.

"There is no doubt that after 68 per cent of our 2,600 members participated in a secret postal ballot — the highest ever — the majority will heed the strike call."

However, the breakaway Cabin Crew 89 has told its members to work normally and to cross picket lines unless there is physical intimidation.

British Airways, which runs 260 short-haul flights carrying 26,000 passengers in and out of Heathrow each day, intends to use management and training staff to man operations.

It may also cut staffing levels or suspend in-flight catering. As a last resort, passengers will be switched to

other airlines operating on the same routes. At Gatwick, British Airways's second British base, a management spokesman said that about 20 European departures were threatened by the strike.

Four hundred British tourists returning home from a trip to Disneyland were delayed for 28 hours at Orlando Airport, Florida, at the weekend because of mechanical problems with their aircraft.

The delay ended at 11.15pm on Sunday evening when the aircraft left for Heathrow.

## Computer boosts survival rate

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

Accident and heart attack victims in the West Midlands now have a better chance of survival than those in other areas because of the installation of an emergency services computer system.

The control room system boosts the response speed of ambulances to emergency calls by identifying the location of the nearest vehicles in

seconds. A large screen, displaying maps of an ambulance service's territory, allows staff to pinpoint victims rapidly, find the nearest ambulances and assess how quickly they are travelling.

The West Midlands Ambulance Service — which has one of the busiest control rooms in the country, handling more than 700 calls a

day and covering a population of three million — has had the system on trial for a month.

A switchboard which gives urgent calls priority has been installed to improve the control room's capacity and reaction time.

Laser-Scan, which developed the system, said it is expected to be installed nationwide shortly.

## Fish and chip shop goes international

By Peter Davenport

What Laura Ashley did for the English look by opening a chain of stores in foreign capitals, Harry Ramsden's, the world's largest and most famous fish and chip shop, hopes to achieve for the national culinary reputation.

The humble fish and chip shop, which started out in a 10ft by 6ft wooden hut on the fringe of the Yorkshire Dales more than 60 years ago, is to open franchise branches in Singapore, Melbourne, Auckland and Tokyo.

Mr John Barnes, the chairman of the Harry Ramsden's, said: "Hamburgers and pizzas have gone around the world yet no really traditional British food has done the same. We hope to put that right with our fish and chips."

The company says customers abroad will be offered the taste of real Yorkshire fish and chips with supplies of halibut, haddock and plaice flown out from Britain to the new outlets.

The transport costs are likely to put the price of a fish and chip supper in the overseas branches out of the range of many would-be customers so they will also be offered locally-caught fish.

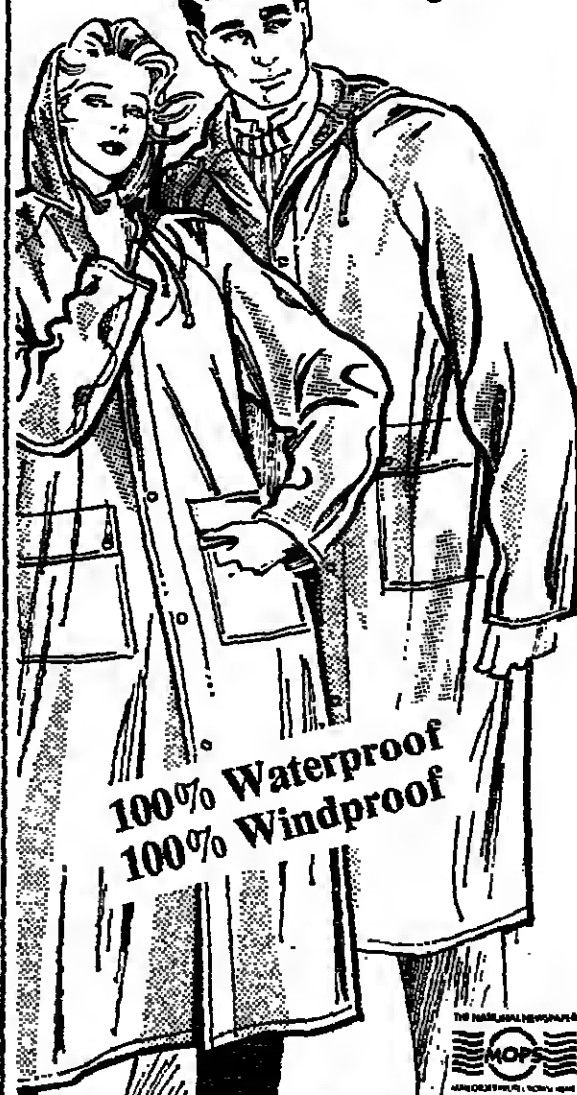
Far Eastern interest in the most traditional of English meals was first expressed seriously two years ago. Singapore Airlines mounted a promotional event in a Singapore hotel at which staff from Harry Ramsden's were flown out with supplies of potatoes and haddock to prepare fish and chip

dinners. It will be the company's first venture overseas, as earlier plans to take fish and chips into Moscow became bogged down in protracted negotiations.

The original shop was opened by Mr Harry Ramsden, a Bradford fish fryer, in 1936. The shop, still on the original site and a company in its own right, is now owned by a southern-based catering firm. Last year it served a million customers and recorded takings of about £2 million.

The first of the foreign ventures, Singapore and Auckland, are due to open next year with Melbourne and Tokyo following in 1991. Each of the units will cost £1 million and are expected to record takings of about £2 million a year from which the company will take a royalty.

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# Ninety officers join criminal inquiry into Hillsborough

By Craig Seton

Ninety officers will spend six months reinterviewing hundreds of witnesses and officers as part of the criminal investigation by West Midlands police into the Hillsborough football disaster.

Mr Mervyn Jones, assistant chief constable of the West Midlands, who will be in day-to-day charge of the criminal inquiry, said yesterday that he expected to be ready to present his report on possible culpability to Mr Allan Green, QC, Director of Public Prosecutions, by January or February.

As Mr Jones spoke, Sir Harry Livermore, a solicitor, criticized the decision to appoint Mr Geoffrey Dear, West Midlands chief constable, to head the criminal investigation. He said Mr Dear was an "unfortunate choice", bearing in mind that he had just brought in the Police Complaints Authority to investigate his own Serious Crime Squad after vital evidence went missing.

Sir Harry, whose firm of solicitors is acting on behalf of more than 80 complainants in Hillsborough disaster cases, said: "It is absolutely right

that there should be an investigation into criminal responsibility but I do not understand why it is being done this way except as being a public relations exercise."

Mr Jones said that the possible offences which would be investigated included manslaughter and the common law offence of "failing to do one's duty".

He made it clear that his remit was not confined to possible charges against police officers, but would include every aspect of the disaster investigated for Lord Justice Taylor's inquiry into the tragedy, including the role of Sheffield Wednesday Football Club and football fans.

Mr Jones told a press conference in Birmingham: "I have a completely open mind. There will be no offence left unobserved. It will be all embracing and not just concentrating on one party or any particular aspect. It is wider than just the police."

The inquest scheduled on January 15 on the 95 fans who died at the Sheffield Wednesday ground has been postponed. If the DPP decides that no criminal charges are to be

brought, the inquest will be held within six to eight weeks of that decision.

Mr Jones said that otherwise it would be postponed indefinitely until after charges were heard in the courts.

West Midlands police were originally called in to conduct the investigation into the Hillsborough disaster on April 15 to collect evidence for Lord Justice Taylor's inquiry and, eventually, the coroner's inquest.

When asked specifically whether his investigation would cover the behaviour of fans, after allegations of drunkenness, Mr Jones said: "It will embrace every aspect. We will look at everything."

He said that during the preparation of evidence for Lord Justice Taylor, the police team had stored almost 11,000 names on a Home Office Large Major Enquiry System (Holmes) computer, had completed 7,500 questionnaires and taken about 4,000 statements.

The team had more than 4,200 documents in its possession, together with 1,200 items of personal property recovered after the disaster.

# Artist with an eye for sheepish subjects

HARRY GREENWOOD



Mr David Carter, an illustrator on a National Trust commission, sketching Herdwick sheep at Brotherkeld Farm, Eskdale, in the Lake District. The farm, run by Mr Eric Harrison, is devoted entirely to the breed, which is peculiar to the area. The National Trust has made 1989 "Year of the Herdwick".

## Our prices had to rise on August 14th.

As you may have read, our maximum retail prices had to rise on August 14th. But, if you're quick, you might still be able to find the Ford you want at the old price.

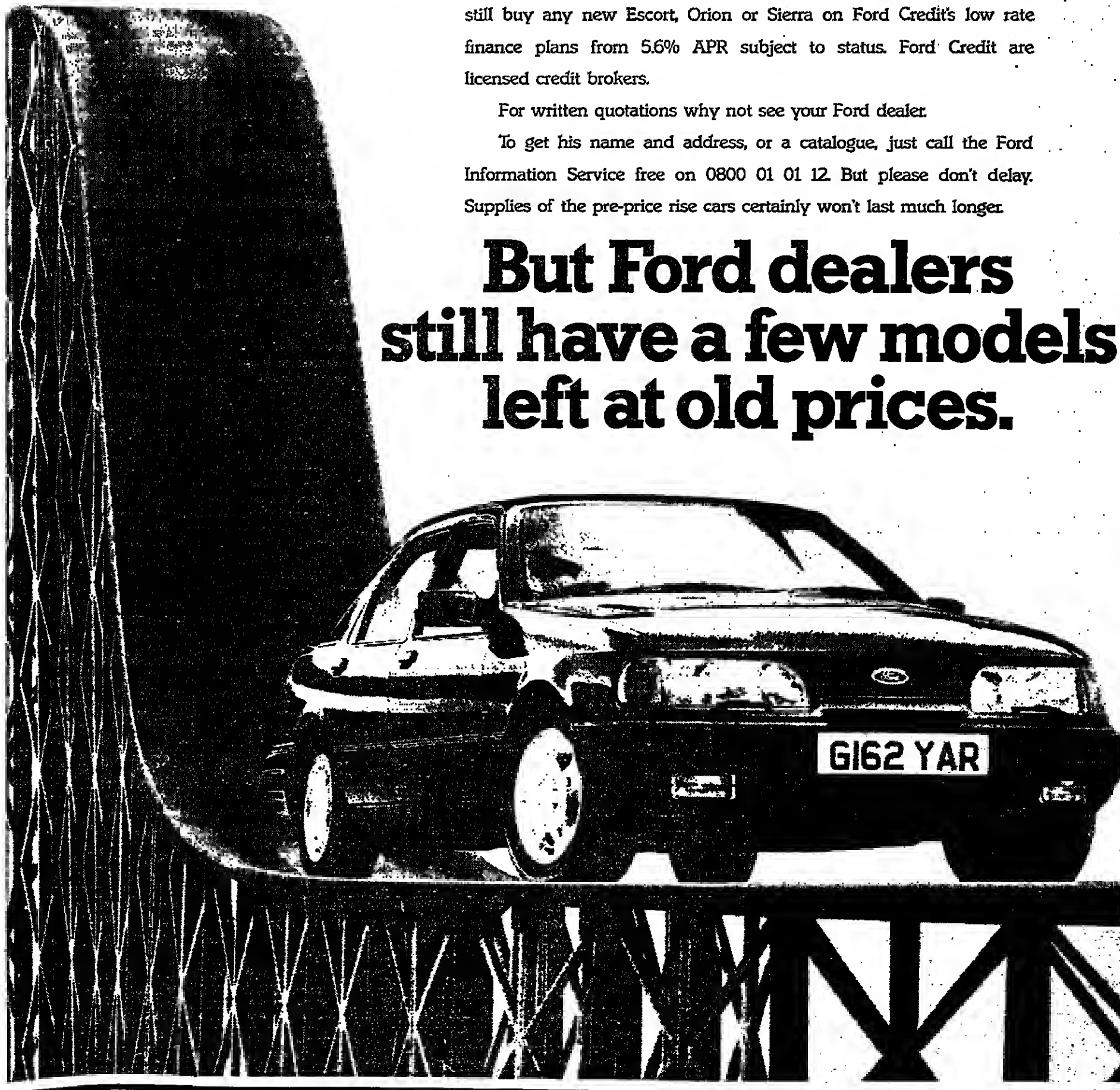
Because Ford dealers still have a few models left at the old prices. For instance, there are still a number of the very competitive Sierra Lasers and Sapphire Classics which could be your entry to a Sierra sized car.

There are still a few special edition cars like the Escort Bonus. You may still find some Granadas and Sierras with the previous 2.0 litre OHC engines which are certainly worth looking into if you want a 2.0 litre car.

And, perhaps most important of all, until August 31st, you can still buy any new Escort, Orion or Sierra on Ford Credit's low rate finance plans from 5.6% APR subject to status. Ford Credit are licensed credit brokers.

For written quotations why not see your Ford dealer. To get his name and address, or a catalogue, just call the Ford Information Service free on 0800 01 01 12. But please don't delay. Supplies of the pre-price rise cars certainly won't last much longer.

## But Ford dealers still have a few models left at old prices.



## Private jails due for record finish

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

Britain's first two prisons to be designed and built by private contractors are expected to become operational in record time, easing overcrowding within the remand system.

The remand centres at Everthorpe, on Humberside, and Rochester, Kent, are scheduled to open by the end of 1991, three-and-a-half years after they were planned. In the past it has taken up to eight years to provide similar accommodation.

The Home Office said: "There has been a cost saving but quantifying the precise figure is difficult. What we do expect is that these establishments will come on stream in record time, improving conditions for remand prisoners."

Building contractors have, until now, had to work to plans drawn up by the government Property Services Agency or the prison department, an arrangement which has proved fertile ground for disputes. However, the pilot scheme, which is likely to be extended to other prison building projects soon, has allowed the builders - Taylor, Woodrow, and UK Detention Contractors - to draw up design details.

The centres will each house 300 inmates, mostly in single cells, and be equipped with sports facilities and medical blocks.

UK Detention Contractors, a partnership between builders John Mowlem and Sir Robert McAlpine, is one of about five firms interested in operating remand centres as well as building them.

Our argument is that the improved standards and financial savings which ministers are looking for will only be attained when those who build remand centres are also responsible and accountable for running them. Mr Nicholas Hopkins, the firm's public affairs director, said.

### Weekend food prices

## Juicy apples the pick of the bunch

English Discovery apples, firm, sweet and juicy, are at their best priced at 25p to 40p a lb, but their season is short.

New, scason Bramley and Grenadier cooking apples are also in the shops at 30p-45p a pound. Home-grown soft fruits include blackcurrants and redcurrants at 70p to 95p a half lb.

Strawberries are 40p to 80p a half lb and blackberries 50p to 70p a lb, while raspberries, 70p to 90p a half lb are coming to an end. Spanish and Italian plums are 40p to 55p a lb, the same price as English Victorias.

Vegetable supplies and quality are good. Peas are plentiful at 30p to 50p a lb as are marrow 30p to 55p each, courgettes 25p to 50p a pound and English new crop carrots 15p to 25p and potatoes 10p to 17p a lb. Big Webbs and Cos lettuces are particularly good

value at 25p to 40p each, tomatoes are down to around 30p a lb or 50p to 80p for the beef variety.

Lamb is a bargain at present with the whole leg down to an average of £1.80 per lb and shoulder £1.02.

Beef prices are steady with top side and silverside £2.75 a lb, bone in fore rib £1.88 and rump steak £3.85.

Pork prices are moving upwards but are still good value: whole legs average £1.27 a lb, boneless shoulder £1.40 and rib chops £1.39 a lb.

Fish is more plentiful than last week. Quality cod, haddock and plaice fillets are excellent value at £2.75, £2.90 and £2.70 a lb respectively, subject to regional variations. Dover sole is around £7 a lb.

Shellfish include cockles at around £1 a pint, mussels 90p a pint and crabs from Cornwall and the Norfolk coast starting about £2 a lb.

## Baker chooses adviser

Mr Kenneth Baker, chairman of the Conservative Party, has appointed Mr Tony Kerpel, a former national chairman of the Young Conservatives, as his special adviser (Andrew Pierce writes). Mr Kerpel, aged 44, held the same post when Mr Baker was Secretary of State for Education and Science. Mr Kerpel was a senior film examiner with the British Board of Film Censors for 14 years until 1986.

## Historic calf

A rare British White calf has been born in Wollaton Park, Nottingham - the first for nearly 200 years. The herd died out and has only recently been re-introduced.

## Staying power

Britain's oldest man will celebrate a double anniversary tomorrow. Mr John Evans, of Florest-Fach, Swansea, Mid-Glamorgan, will be aged 112 and it will be 100 years since he first worked as a miner.

## Cheap pints

Holidaymakers will start selling what is claimed as the cheapest beer in Britain today to see if increased sales can keep prices down. Pints at the Cricketers Arms in Radford, Nottingham will be 60p.

## Rescue wait

20 minutes for emergency services to arrive to rescue a boy at Rappere Cove, Ilfracombe, North Devon. The body of Mark Woodward, aged 13, was found later.

## Inquest opens

An inquest opened at Devizes coroner's court yesterday into the deaths of Brian and Ursula Randall at their home in Hilperton, Wiltshire. Lance-Corporal Kevin Greenland has been charged with murder.

## Poison charge

Simoo Carter, aged 17, of Dry Drayton Road, Oakington, appeared before Cambridge magistrates yesterday accused of trying to kill his father and stepmother with rat poison.



# London to Sydney non-stop. A world record.



Yesterday, the most advanced long-distance aircraft ever to join the Qantas fleet became the first passenger aircraft to fly non-stop between London and Sydney. Technology aboard the new Qantas "Longreach", appropriately named after the small town from which Qantas pioneered long-distance travel, enabled it to complete the 18,000 km journey in twenty hours, nine minutes. Our Qantas "Longreach" is Boeing's latest 747 and has been specially designed to fly further than any other aircraft. So you can look forward to some big changes in our timetable when the first of the "Longreach" fleet begins its service in October.

**QANTAS**

The spirit of Australia.



# Honecker plays waiting game on Kohl's refugee plight

From John England  
Bonn

Bonn has resigned itself to a likely long wait before a solution is found to the problem of more than 300 East Germans who have taken refuge in West German diplomatic missions in East Berlin, Budapest, Prague and Warsaw in the hope of emigrating to the West.

Despite indirect contacts between Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, and Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, government sources here do not expect East Berlin to decide on the issue until after the end of this month when the East German holidays end. It will then be seen how many of the 200,000 or so East German holidaymakers now in Hungary have not returned home.

About 600 of them are reported to have gone underground in Hungary, and many are expected to ask the West German Embassy in Budapest for West German passports and passage to the West. A total of 181 East Germans took

refuge in the embassy before it was closed last Monday, but 10 have since left voluntarily. Another 300 are camped outside the building or elsewhere in Budapest.

In East Berlin 116 East German men, women and children are still holding out in the West German diplomatic mission which closed on August 8. Another 40 East Germans have taken refuge to the West German Embassy in Prague, and one in Bonn's Embassy in Warsaw.

But the East German holidaymakers in Hungary are seen as the key to the problem. As a West German government source put it yesterday: "The refugees inside our diplomatic missions are in numbers that East Berlin can comprehend. If they were the only problem it would probably be possible to come to some early arrangement over them with the East German Government. But no one knows at present how many of the 200,000 or more tourists will vote with their feet for the West. That is the big question for both Bonn

and East Berlin. Hungary is the pivot, and the East German Government is waiting to see what happens there."

Meanwhile, the West German missions in East Berlin and Budapest would remain closed until the refugee problem was settled, he added.

The East Germans have warned Bonn that their relations could suffer if the West German Embassy in Budapest continued to issue passports to East German refugees "against international law". But the West Germans reply that they are acting perfectly legally because Bonn recognizes only one German citizenship.

"For us," said the Bonn source, "an East German travelling to West Germany is just like a West German journeying, say, from Munich to Hamburg. We must accept them all on the principle of absolute *Freizügigkeit* — freedom to live or travel where one likes."

A confidential study carried out for the Government last January estimated

that up to 1.5 million East Germans wanted to leave their country for the West. An editorial in the respected *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* yesterday said about 10 per cent, or 1.7 million, of East Germany's population was determined to leave.

Whatever the number, Bonn is bound to accept them all if they are allowed to go. "To carry the point to absurdity," the government source said, "if Herr Honecker were to open the gates to his entire population of 17 million we would have to make room for them."

The West German public, although troubled by a flood of *Aussiedler* — ethnic Germans from Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union — into the country due to the relaxed emigration policies of President Gorbachov — are sympathetic toward their countrymen from East Germany. Prominent media coverage of the plight of the destitute East Germans in Budapest, especially in the mass-circulation daily newspaper *Bild*, has helped the sentiment along. *Bild* has

virtually adopted the refugees in Budapest. The paper sent a team there to provide money, food and clothing for them, although it gave itself a big, banner headline pat on the back for its initiative.

West Germany's serious newspapers, and radio and television news programmes, have also made the refugee story their lead item.

Public reaction in favour of the refugees was made clear last Monday with the publication of an opinion poll by the Wicket Institute of Tübingen. It found that 87.2 per cent of the respondents believed that Herr Kohl, who is holidaying at an Austrian lakeside resort, should return to Bonn immediately and contact the East German Government over the problem.

No doubt coincidentally, a West German government spokesman revealed the same day that Herr Kohl, although still on holiday, had sent the first of two messages to Herr Honecker three days earlier. Another poll by the same institute, published yesterday,

found that 91 per cent of West Germans approved of the Budapest Embassy's help to East German refugees, while 88 per cent thought it should do even more.

Chancellor Kohl, 84 per cent said, would still be more useful in Bonn than in Austria. The Chancellor, who returns to his office on Monday, has said he is ready for "any kind of contact" with East Berlin "in order to find a way out of this depressing situation".

That is interpreted as including a personal talk with Herr Honecker, if only by telephone. Herr Kohl, however, will probably have to be patient in waiting for a connection.

Surprise visit: Herr Jürgen Sudhoff, State Secretary in the West German Foreign Ministry, made a surprise visit to Budapest yesterday, his second in three days, at the direction of Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister, who is on holiday in Bavaria recovering from a heart attack. A ministry spokesman refused to give details of Herr Sudhoff's talks in Budapest.

## Moscow action on ethnic minorities

By Mary Dejevsky

With nationalist violence, demonstrations and strikes continuing in many parts of the Soviet Union, the Communist Party leadership has published proposals that would greatly increase the autonomy of ethnic minorities living in republics dominated by other national groups.

The proposals are part of a top-level review of policy towards national minorities compiled by a Communist Party commission in advance of a Central Committee plenum on the subject. The plenum was postponed at the last minute in July after the Politburo had reportedly rejected the first draft of the policy document and is now scheduled for September.

The proposals made public yesterday call for "radical transformations in the Soviet federation" to accommodate the needs of the different nationalities and "ensure the free development of the spiritual life of all peoples of the Soviet Union". Of particular note was the pledge to increase the rights of the 20 autonomous republics — areas within the 15 union republics inhabited predominantly by minority ethnic groups.

Several areas affected by the recent upsurge in ethnic tension come into this category, including the Tatar Autonomous Republic in the Russian Federation and Abkhazia, in Georgia. The disputed area of Nagorno-Karabakh, which is now under direct rule from Moscow, is an autonomous

area (that is, a smaller administrative unit) ruled by Azerbaijan, although populated predominantly by Armenians. It is not clear whether the new proposals will apply to these smaller administrative divisions.

The party's review document also spoke of the need for a new balance to be drawn between the rights of the Soviet Union's 15 constituent republics and the State as a whole. While details have not been made available, it

Moscow (Reuters) — Estonia will defy a ruling by Moscow that a new law limiting voting rights in the Baltic republic is unconstitutional, an Estonian parliamentary official said yesterday. The law, which has set into train more than a week of strikes by ethnic workers, is aimed largely at new Russian immigrants.

It appears that the party leadership may be considering a more federal structure for the Soviet Union.

Soviet political figures, including President Gorbachov, have used the word "federation" with increasing frequency since it was included in the Resolution on Nationalities Questions that was adopted by the special Communist Party conference in June, 1988.

The latest proposals were reported only hours after the Soviet Government took steps to defuse ethnic tension in the Baltic republic of Estonia

where ethnic Russian workers, who comprise a minority in the republic, have been on strike for more than a week. They are protesting against a new law, passed by the Estonian Supreme Soviet on August 8, which sets a two-year residence requirement for voters in the republic.

Local elections are due to be held this year and many Russians regard the law as tantamount to disenfranchisement. The electoral law followed the enactment of legislation making Estonian — a difficult language related to Finnish — the official language of the republic, a measure which many Russians regard as equally discriminatory.

The Supreme Soviet Presidium in Moscow, the Soviet Union's top executive body, ruled yesterday that the Estonian electoral law was unconstitutional because its effect would be to deprive some Soviet citizens of their right to vote.

Introducing a strongly worded decree, the Vice-President, Mr Anatoly Lukyanov, said the legislation was "unacceptable, not only judicially, but also politically" because it could lead to the "aggravation of inter-ethnic and social relations".

The Presidium held back from an immediate confrontation with the Estonian leadership, however, by giving the republic until October to propose revisions to bring its legislation into line with the state Constitution.

From Roger Boyes  
Warsaw

Mr Lech Walesa, the shipyard electrician who founded Solidarity, was yesterday an inch away from power.

As he negotiated hard with the leaders of the Peasants' Party and the Democrats to form an alternative, non-Communist government, it became increasingly clear that only he could really hold such a coalition together.

Solidarity, the Peasants' Party and the Democrats voted overwhelmingly on Wednesday night to put together a government under the leadership of Mr Walesa, that would exclude the Communists. They have enough votes to carry the day in Parliament.

But Mr Walesa declined the offer and Solidarity is talking instead of putting forward his advisers, Professor Bronislaw Geremek or Mr Tadeusz Mazowiecki.

There is an element of piety or shyness in Mr Walesa's reluctance to take on the premiership: after some two decades as a worker dissident, he is suspicious of all power. His favourite poet, Slowacki, put it best:

"We'll never submit to be allies of kings. We'll never bend our necks to power and might. For only from Christ do we take our commands. We are servants of the Virgin!"

But mainly, of course, it is a matter of calculation. "Lech needs to be persuaded," said an aide. "He does not want to stage a *putsch*. There must be choice, discussion and then, if



Mr Walesa and Professor Geremek, the Solidarity parliamentary leader, negotiating in Warsaw on forming a coalition.

need be, he will change his mind." The crucial voice will certainly be that of the Catholic primate of Poland, Cardinal Józef Glemp. If he urges on Mr Walesa the responsibility of power, he will take it.

It will set a startling precedent — the first non-Communist government in the Soviet bloc.

It is the President, however, General Jaruzelski, who has to

propose a name of the Prime Minister to Parliament.

A month ago, the general had serious reservations about a Solidarity-led government, saying that it would alarm Poland's partners in the Warsaw Pact. But the Kremlin appears to have accepted assurances that Solidarity is no longer interested in undermining the bloc.

Mr Walesa's strength is

based on two elements. First, he is the single unifying authority of Solidarity.

Mr Walesa, known how to bridge the gap, and make peace between the factions.

Second, if the government is to succeed or survive, it must have the popular authority to ask for prolonged sacrifice while market reforms are introduced. It requires charisma: Poland needs a populist

who can talk to the masses. Mr Walesa grew up in a poor family of seven children, went to school in wooden clogs, was brought up a Catholic, was born to be a worker.

Nowadays, "the" primitive Bolshevik slogan — "all power to the workers" — is about to be realized. A worker is getting ready to throw the Communists out of power.

Hazards ahead, page 10

### Political change in Eastern Europe

## Challenge to Gorbachov as 'new thinking' reverberates abroad

By Vladimir Kusin

Events in Poland inevitably raise the question of how Moscow will react. Since President Gorbachov came to power four and a half years ago, his public statements about Eastern Europe suggest a steady evolution of his views.

He now appears to accept that changes in Eastern Europe that might lead to a multi-party democratic system based on a market-oriented economy no longer constitute sufficient grounds for Moscow to intervene. He has also strongly implied that nations in Eastern Europe may abandon communism.

In his speech at the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg on July 6, he said: "The fact that the states of Europe belong to different social systems is a reality. The recognition of this historical fact and respect for the sovereign right of each people to choose their social system at

their own discretion are the most important prerequisites for a process leading to a normal Europe."

"The social and political order in some countries did change in the past, and it can change in the future as well, but this is entirely a matter for the people themselves and of their choosing."

He went on: "Any interference in the internal affairs, any attempt to limit the sovereignty of (another) state — friend and ally, or any other — would be inadmissible." To hammer his point home, Mr Gorbachov specifically rejected the use of force.

It would be wrong to dismiss the Strasbourg statements as mere rhetoric. No one in Eastern Europe now has the excuse that Moscow is the obstacle to change. Mr Gorbachov has confirmed that the door leading to change is open to those who want to enter.

The communiqué from the Warsaw

Pact summit in Bucharest in July dwelt on relations between the nations of Eastern Europe. It spoke of "the common desire to act in the interests of socialism", but stressed member countries' right to create policies "without

Belgrade (Reuters) — Sixteen ethnic Albanians, including Mr Azem Vllasi, the former Kosovo Communist Party chief, are expected to go on trial in the middle of October for their role in unrest in Yugoslavia's Kosovo province, the Belgrade newspaper *Politika* Ekspres said yesterday. Investigations have been completed and they will be charged on September 2, the newspaper said, quoting officials. The 16 were detained on suspicion of having stirred ethnic Albanian protests last November and March against curbs on Kosovo's autonomy imposed by the republic of Serbia. Twenty-five people died in riots last March and May by the province's ethnic Albanian majority.

outside interference". Communist countries "proceed from the premise that no universal socialist models exist and that no one has a monopoly on truth", it said.

Considering Mr Gorbachov's Strasbourg speech and the changes heralded for the Warsaw Pact and Comecon in

Bucharest, the question is: has the first stage of a gradual Soviet disengagement from Eastern Europe begun? From Mr Gorbachov's accession in March, 1985, to the end of 1986, the emphasis was on overcoming the lassitude of the Brezhnev

era. At this time an article appeared in *Pravda* emphasizing that national interests must be "correctly combined with the internationalist interests of Eastern Europe as a whole" and that communists must "always and in all things remain loyal to Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism".

The years 1987 and 1988 saw a much more aggressively reformist Mr Gorbachov. A series of developments may have influenced Mr Gorbachov in 1989 sufficiently to extract from him the clear statement he made in Strasbourg, in Hungary the reformers have taken up the cause of a multi-party democratic state, and appear to have won.

In Poland, the resurgence of "Solidarity" and its electoral victory, with the attendant commitment of a decisive part of the Polish Socialist Workers' Party leadership to democratic change, have placed before Mr Gorbachov the need to embrace the unbearable or risk Poland's collapse into ungovernability.

In China, the Tiananmen Square massacre must have brought home to Moscow that massive use of force in Eastern Europe would backfire. In the Soviet Union, declining economic for-

times, have signalled a two-pronged message: that the Kremlin cannot afford to reward Hungary and Poland economically in return for moderation of their designs for change and that letting them go their own way will make the West more amenable to extending economic favours to Moscow.

Whether there will be any backtracking will depend on the outcome of the contest of wills over change within the Soviet leadership.

Moreover, the current stage in the evolution of Soviet thinking about Eastern Europe will require more definition. A clear-cut disavowal of the military interventions in Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968 would be some confirmation of the reality of the "new thinking".

The author is deputy director of the Research and Analysis Department, Radio Free Europe.

## Get your bearings at Southampton

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### The Helmsley tax trial

## New York feasts on 'public stoning'

From Charles Bremner, New York

Imagine the fun the tabloid press would have had reporting the trial of Marie Antoinette and you might come close to the delight that New York is deriving from the legal humiliation of Mrs Leona Helmsley, its very own royal shepherdess.

The tragedy-comedy now being played out in a panelled courtroom in lower Manhattan has everything — wealth, sadism, breath-taking greed and the dramatic justice of watching the mighty get their come-uppance.

For those who missed the opening act, Mrs Helmsley, a billionaire aged 69, is the self-styled "Queen" of the New York hotel and property business. She is being prosecuted, along with two subordinates, for evading \$4 million (£2.5 million) in taxes and for applying strong-arm tactics to the suppliers of champagne and other commodities to extort payment in return for supply contracts.

The charges, however, are relatively small change because, along with her husband, Harry, aged 80, who has been excused prosecution because of failing health, Mrs Helmsley makes about \$60 million

a year to profit from worldwide properties.

TV viewers retain an image of a famous interview in which Mrs Helmsley was shown gambolling with pet sheep in the gardens of Dummellen Hall, her Connecticut estate, the place she is alleged to have redecorated from the proceeds of her tax-saving schemes. After the cameras left, the public has learnt amid a wealth of other sordid detail, the animals were swiftly converted into chops.

The trial has turned into something akin to a public stoning. A few items should suffice from the daily deluge, all chronicled lovingly by New York's tabloids.

There was the time Mrs Helmsley sacked her vice-president standing in her dressing-room as she was being fitted for a ballgown at Christmas. There was the workman whom she refused to pay for installing a barbecue pit at Dummellen. When she was told he needed the money to feed his six children, she was alleged to have answered: "Why didn't he keep his pants on? He wouldn't have so many problems."

An employee described how

"she threatened to pull me through the telephone wire" if he failed to extort "free television sets for Dummellen from the company that supplied her hotels. And just this week, the court read the servants' rules at Dummellen, which demand signatures for every bit of food consumed. Among her penny-

Helmsley's downfall is Mr Donald Trump, the mega-developer, who decreed that she was a "disgrace to humanity" after the court heard that she tried to cheat him when he bought the St Moritz hotel from her in 1985.

Mr Edward Koch, New York's Mayor and no mean hand in the art of raising hackles, describes her as "the Wicked Witch of the West", and even Mr Franc Turco, her former manager and alleged accomplice, wants nothing to do with her. Explaining why he does not join her for lunch in the court cafeteria, he said: "Someone she fired might try to shoot her."

No wonder Mr Gerald Feffer, her lawyer, decided to opt for a novel tactic known as "psychological inoculation", or the "J.R. Ewing defence".

This involves conceding at the outset that his client is, as he told the court, "one tough bitch" but arguing that that does not itself constitute a crime. In his defence, which opened yesterday, Mr Feffer is in fact trying to show that Mrs Helmsley is so hated and friendless that her employees and business associates cannot be trusted.



# Trickle of boat people opt for return to Vietnam

From Chris Pomeroy, Hong Kong

More than 100 Vietnamese boat people who volunteered to return to Vietnam rather than languish indefinitely in detention centres in Hong Kong flew back to Hanoi yesterday on a special charter flight from the colony.

For the Hong Kong Government's harassed refugee officials, faced with an increasingly truculent population of 41,000 Vietnamese detainees, the sight of the departing Dragonair flight offered only short-lived satisfaction.

The officials are hoping the trickle will soon become a flood and that thousands will volunteer to return, a logistical nightmare they would be happy to tackle tomorrow. The reality today is somewhat grim.

As 121 flew out, clutching full shopping bags like eager tourists, on the special flight arranged by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, another 425 boat people were picked up in Hong Kong waters and dumped in a grossly overcrowded and less than adequate tented reception site to join 6,000 others living on biscuits and cold tinned fish on one of Hong Kong's barren outer islands.

Yesterday's 121 volunteers were the third group of Vietnamese to request to return to Vietnam since Hong Kong tightened its policy on boat people arrivals last year.

Under the new policy,

newly arriving boat people are no longer automatically classified as refugees with the chance of eventually settling in the West. Now described as "economic migrants", almost all will remain in Hong Kong's 13 detention centres until they volunteer to go back or are summarily deported.

Fewer than 700 people have made applications. An attempt by Hong Kong, backed by Britain, to make an early start to "mandatory repatriation", as it is euphemistically known, was cut short a month ago after intense US diplomatic pressure and protests from the UNHCR.

Although a UN conference held in Geneva in June decided that the eventual repatriation of the boat people was the only long-term solution to the crisis, over its 15th year, it recommended that a decent interval should be left to allow boat people to volunteer to return.

More than 105,000 boat people are spread around 10 first asylum countries in Asia as far afield as South Korea and Indonesia, equivalent to the distance from Scandinavia to central Africa.

Meanwhile, anti-Vietnamese tensions are rising in the colony, the UNHCR is behind its payments for the upkeep of the detainees and the Hong Kong Government has used up its budget allocation of £50 million for this year, including £4.5 million recently pledged by Whitehall. Despite fears for



Boat people cheerfully bidding farewell to Hong Kong yesterday as they board a UN-chartered plane bound for Vietnam.

the safety of those people returning who had fled illegally from Vietnam, UNHCR officials stationed in Hanoi say that no punishments have been made on the 143 who returned from Hong

Kong in March and May this year. Although Vietnam has a chronic unemployment problem, a least two of those returning had used the \$150 (£93) cash component of their UNHCR grant to move back

into private business. However, Vietnamese Foreign Ministry officials in Hanoi point out that the cash amounts to a year's salary for a civil servant and argue that any direct payments to return-

ing boat people could create a circular flow of emigrés. Officials want the money to be channelled into community projects and view repatriation grants as just part of a wider issue, the resumption of for-

eign development aid to Vietnam. International aid has largely been withheld since Vietnamese troops invaded Cambodia in late 1978, primarily at US insistence.

Ironically, the aid gap has exacerbated Vietnam's economic backwardness and indirectly boosted boat people numbers. Vietnamese officials point out, however, that their troops will be out of Cambodia by the end of next month and that if Western refugee resettlement nations (like Britain) believe Vietnam is a trustworthy enough place to repatriate boat people to, then it no longer deserves to be economically isolated.

● LONDON: There was no breakthrough yesterday in talks between London and Hanoi on repatriating large numbers of boat people, despite appearances to the contrary (Andrew McEwen writes). Those who returned yesterday were volunteers and made up the third plane load in a series which falls outside the scope of the talks.

The main obstacle to the scheme Britain is seeking is that the UNHCR has refused to monitor any scheme that is not entirely voluntary.

Britain wants to send large numbers home without using force but with the use of strong persuasion.

It is understood that the United States Government would consider reducing or withdrawing its contributions to the UNHCR if it agreed to monitor such a programme.

## 32 killed as bus crashes

Harare — At least 32 people were hurt to death or died in the impact, and 66 were injured when an overcrowded bus crashed north of here (Jan Raath writes).

Survivors said the vehicle swerved wildly after a blow-out. It smashed into a tree and toppled into a 6 ft ditch before bursting into flames.

## Five freed

Maputo (AP) — The Mozambique Government has freed five foreigners, including a Briton convicted of sabotage, as part of a clemency deal for prisoners.

## Drug haul

The Hague (Reuters) — Dutch police confiscated thousands of capsules of the so-called ecstasy drug in the town of Valkenswaard and arrested a Dutchman and four Belgians.

## Pilot blamed

Athens (AP) — Pilot error caused the Olympic Airways crash on the island of Samos, in which 34 people died, Mr Nikos Gelethakis, the Communications Minister, said.

## Private visit

Belgrade (Reuters) — Mother Teresa of Calcutta has met Mr Reis Mahle, the Foreign Minister, and senior officials during a private visit to Albania.

## Leadership divided

# China confirms arrest of Wang

From Catherine Sampson, Peking

A government spokesman has confirmed that the student leader Mr Wang Dan had been caught, and has suggested that Mr Zhao Ziyang, the ousted Communist Party leader, may face criminal charges.

Mr Yuan Mu also appeared to rule out the use of force in resolving the diplomatic controversy over the prominent dissident Mr Fang Lizhi.

The state council spokesman made these disclosures in an interview with the Japanese newspaper *Yomiuri Shimbun* which took place on Wednesday, and was made public in Tokyo yesterday.

Mr Wang heads China's list of most wanted student activists. A first-year Peking University student of history, he came to fame in the early days of the student movement. He was in Tiananmen Square on the night of the military onslaught but Mr Yuan confirmed that he had not been arrested until a month ago when he met a Taiwan journalist who was subsequently deported.

The Chinese media has reported no trial of the student activists, although several have been arrested. There is speculation that Chinese leaders are still arguing among



Professor Fang: Safe in the refuge of the US Embassy.

## Students pore over Deng's 80 pages

From Catherine Sampson, Peking

A dozen young men and women sit in the sun beside an ornamental pool on the campus of the People's University, seeming to chat idly.

This is an ideological education class, at which students are expected earnestly to declare their undying devotion to the Communist Party after an intensive study of improving literature.

"Come and join us," says the young man who turns out to be the teacher in charge. He is a new graduate, and sports the official line dutifully: "Before, I supported the student movement but after reading the documents, I have changed my mind. I think the students went too far."

The class has to pore over 80 pages of speeches and newspaper articles by Mr Deng Xiaoping, China's paramount leader, for six hours a day for a week. All the students have been called back early for this pre-term ritual.

"After reading, we have a discussion, give our opinions, make self-criticisms, then at the end of the week we write something," said the teacher.

What if a student writes that he still supports the pro-democracy movement? "You can write whatever you want, but if you write something like that, then teachers or other students

themselves about how the students should be treated.

Since they will be charged with political rather than violent crimes, the sentencing will be highly sensitive. While Chinese people in general have reservations about people who throw petrol bombs, they have great respect for student activists.

Equally sensitive is the handling of Mr Zhao. But the likelihood of criminal charges seems to be growing.

"Should comrade Zhao be found to have participated in the recent insurgency, or plotted or instigated the movement behind the scenes, he would face criminal charges," Mr Yuan said.

Mr Zhao was still being investigated by the party, he said, and his future would depend on the findings.

Mr Zhao has been stripped of all his party posts but remains a Communist Party member and cannot face criminal charges until he is expelled. So far he has been blamed for many things but has not directly been accused of the sort of crimes mentioned by Mr Yuan.

The leadership may also be split on this issue. Somehow they have to avoid making Mr Zhao a martyr, or turning him into a rallying point for further unrest. At the same time, they have to be seen to punish him appropriately having criticized him so thoroughly.

The Chinese media omitted to mention the confirmation of Mr Wang's arrest, or the ominous comments about Mr Zhao, but reported Mr Yuan's remarks about the Fang Lizhi controversy. Mr Fang, his dissident wife and his son took refuge in the US Embassy shortly after the pro-democracy protest on June 4.

"I will be told to help you." Even the teacher cannot summon up a great deal of enthusiasm for the text: "I can't say they are interesting exactly, but they are reasonable."

He refuses to say whether he took part in the demonstration, and is even too embarrassed to say whether he is a Communist Party member.

While their teacher speaks, the students are quiet. They do not seem frightened, but even when asked for their opinion, the teacher answers on their behalf: "I think all the students agree." One young woman, however, is hushing with a question: "Do you believe what our Government says, that they had to put an end to violent demonstrations?" These "Well, why did they send in all those tanks?" No one comes up with an answer.

Two and a half months ago, the campus was in mourning for the students who died in the Peking massacre. White flowers were placed in the trees, and bloodstained coats hung from walls. Now the anti-government posters have gone, and where the students used to hold press conferences, there hangs a big red banner proclaiming: "Uphold the four principles, oppose bourgeois liberalization."

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# International pressure grows on Damascus to forge Lebanese peace

## Pro-Syrian forces shell Christians as ceasefire fails

## Long trek from the guns to shelter in south

From Mike Theodoulou, Nicosia

A Lebanese ceasefire less than 24 hours old had diminished into a semi-truce by last night and even that looked in danger of collapsing as pro-Syrian forces shelled the Christian coastline.

Christian and Muslim forces battled across the dividing "green line" in Beirut with mortars and rocket-propelled grenades. One civilian, a Syrian officer, and two of his soldiers were reportedly killed in the renewed fighting.

Pro-Syrian militias issued a statement yesterday saying they would keep shelling harbours along the Christian coast to prevent Iraqi weapons reaching the forces of the Christian leader, General Michel Aoun. They sent 80 shells crashing into residential areas on the coastline north of Beirut to underline their warning.

General Aoun had made his acceptance of the UN Security Council's urgent ceasefire appeal dependent on an end to the Syrian blockade of the Christian enclave.

The Christian Voice of Lebanon Radio station reported him saying he did not need to tell his forces what to do if the Syrians or their Muslim allies shelled ships bringing desperately needed supplies to the Christians. They would automatically retaliate in self-defence.

Despite these numerous ceasefire violations, the big guns remained silent yesterday, giving civilians a chance either to flee Beirut and the battle-zone towns, or to stockpile provisions before returning to their fetid underground shelters.

France had given the ceasefire a vote of no confidence when it announced it was despatching an aircraft carrier to Lebanon.

The Foreign Ministry in Paris said this was to reinforce the frigate Duquesne which was sent to the eastern Mediterranean earlier this week to boost the French naval presence and to be at hand to protect French citizens in Lebanon. The ministry said: "The only purpose of these measures is to provide any assistance which may be necessary."

Analysts here took the wording of the statement — it did not specifically limit the offer of assistance to its citizens alone — to mean that the French warships would be ready to help the Christians if

the Syrians break through their defences. The Christians' only escape route is by sea.

Yesterday M Alain Decaux, a French junior minister, was due in Beirut to pursue the intense French diplomatic campaign. But France's show of military muscle in the eastern Mediterranean also suggests it may be prepared to back up its so far unsuccessful diplomatic efforts with more than words.

France, which governed Lebanon between the two world wars, has always taken a keen interest in its affairs since and has traditionally sided with its Christian community.

The Christians remain culturally close to France, with French spoken nearly as much as Arabic, and many professional graduates of French universities.

The international community, hitherto wary of alienating Syria, a regional superpower without whose cooperation there cannot be

The Soviet Union has urged Syria to halt the bloodshed in Beirut. Western diplomatic sources said yesterday (Andrew McEwen writes). Although Moscow does not accept the Western argument that it is best placed to persuade Damascus to change its policy, it has made its views known. British diplomats also held talks with Russian and French counterparts.

peace in the Middle East, yesterday continued to exert growing pressure on Damascus. Signor Giulio Andreotti, the Italian Prime Minister, declared: "I believe great pressure must be exerted on Syria — we have done what we can — so that it joins (peace) efforts by the three Arab states."

He was referring to the latest failed Arab League initiative headed by Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Morocco. Weeks ago defeat was admitted, and it was blamed predominantly on Syrian intransigence.

The international community is still pinning its hopes for a Lebanese solution on Arab League efforts. It was an opinion expressed again yesterday by the British Ambassador in Beirut. The best hope was to "build on the work of the Arab League to start a political process and to stop the firing", Mr Allan Ramsay

said in an interview with Voice of Lebanon Radio.

Few Western countries would risk direct involvement in Lebanon after the disastrous experience there of America's contingent in a multinational peace-keeping force in 1983, when more than 200 of its Marines died in a suicide truck-bomb attack by a pro-Iranian fanatic.

Ordinary Lebanese fleeing the carnage are using the opportunity to draw attention to Syria's destructive involvement in their country.

"We can be good neighbours with the Syrians, but we don't want them in our country," Father Elias, a Maronite Catholic priest, said in a Nicosia hotel lobby. Beckoning over a Muslim Lebanese just arrived in Cyprus en route from Damascus, he said: "He'll tell you too, Christians and Muslims can live happily together in Lebanon. The Muslims want the Syrians to go as much as we do."

The Muslim did not disagree. "No talk politics," he said. The priest presented this as proof of his compatriot's fear of the Syrians. "You see, he's afraid to say anything against (President) Assad (of Syria), even here."

It was a common refrain in many Cypriot hotels where the Lebanese are passing through to countries such as France, Canada, and to a lesser extent, because of the difficulty of getting visas quickly, Britain and the US.

The Syrians and their Muslim militia allies took advantage of yesterday's break in the fighting to continue massing troops and tanks along all fronts overlooking the Christian enclave. The Christians used it to bolster their stretched defences with large quantities of ammunition.

Syrian troops in Lebanon did not respond directly to the Security Council's appeal. They could hardly be expected to say they would cease firing when they have consistently and cynically denied ever having fired in the first place.

An editorial in yesterday's *al-Bath* newspaper, the mouthpiece of the ruling Baath party in Damascus, said: "Any objective and wise man who knows the balance of forces in the region could not but soon claim that Syria was a party to what is happening in Lebanon."

Syria the oppressor, page 10



Hundreds of Lebanese civilians nearing the end of a long trek from the guns of Beirut as they arrive at Beit Hayen in Israeli-controlled southern Lebanon.

## The Arab world manoeuvres for position

From Michael Binyon, Damascus

While the fragile UN ceasefire was in place yesterday, bringing a lull in the brutal battle for Beirut, liberation groups and radicals from the Middle East and beyond gathered here to pledge support for the Lebanese Muslims and others fighting General Michel Aoun's Christian forces.

They convened at the Damascus home of Mr Walid Jumblatt, the Druze leader, who is one of Syria's closest allies in Lebanon.

Mr Jumblatt himself remained in Lebanon, where he returned earlier this week, but those rallying to his call for international solidarity included representatives of the Eritrean Liberation Front, the Kurds struggling against the Baghdad Government, the Mujahedin in Iran, opposition groups from Bahrain and Sudan, and even the African National Congress.

Their meeting came after a similar "council of war" by Syria's allies on Tuesday, when Mr Jumblatt and Mr Nabih Berri, the Shia Aml leader, the heads of two radical Palestinian factions and senior officials from the pro-Iranian Hezbollah party came

here for talks with Mr Farouk al-Shara, the Syrian Foreign Minister. Dr Ali Akbar Velayati, his Iranian counterpart, briefly was also present.

Syria is understood to have told Iran, which is offering Damascus valuable political and psychological support for its operations in Lebanon, that it should do all it can to secure the release of Western hostages in Lebanon. Syria wants to gain Western understanding by ending the long-standing crisis over the hostages so that it can concentrate on isolating and defeating General Aoun.

American sources here said this was regarded as a potentially very significant move, since it would encourage the quiet dialogue the US is already conducting with Damascus, in which it is urging Syria to show greater flexibility and willingness to compromise in Lebanon.

Syrian forces, meanwhile, continued their build-up along the 66-mile front with the Christians. There are some 40,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon, and Syria has allowed Muslim militias in west Beirut to engage in fighting for the first time since February, 1987.

There was little optimism here that

the ceasefire in Beirut would hold. The left-wing alliance gave its "conditional approval" to the UN resolution, but insists that a ceasefire be accompanied by the formation of an inter-Lebanese committee to prevent arms deliveries, mainly from Iraq, to General Aoun's Lebanese Forces.

Brussels — The European Commission announced emergency medical aid totalling £350,000 yesterday for the victims of the battle in Lebanon (Sheila Gann writes). The funds will be distributed between the International Red Cross and the French agency, Médecins Sans Frontières.

Such a condition was summarily rejected by General Aoun.

Elsewhere, Iraq yesterday stepped up its war of words on its neighbour, accusing Damascus of trying to create "Greater Syria". Iraq also has called for an emergency Arab summit, and has said it will do all it can to help General Aoun.

Iraqi involvement in the Lebanese crisis, mainly to pay back Syria for its support for Iraq during the Gulf War, has immensely complicated the situation and dimmed hopes of any

political solution to the crisis. The Syrians cannot accept this challenge by Iraq in their own backyard, and feel obliged to respond vigorously to demonstrate that they are still a key force in the Middle East.

With an army of some 450,000 men, the Syrians know they have the strength to defeat General Aoun but, like the Israelis, they see Lebanon as a quagmire and are reluctant to be sucked further in, especially since the likely cost would be heavy casualties.

Syria is dismayed that it has been cast by Western public opinion as the aggressor. It is unwilling, therefore, to undertake any substantial increase in the level of the fighting.

Syria has, however, shown little response so far to Western appeals for restraint. Damascus is especially mistrustful of France, which it sees as a country that has long championed Lebanon's Christians, and is consequently partisan in its approach. The Pope's condemnation of Syrian "genocide" has also angered Damascus.

Syria says it is General Aoun who deliberately increased the fighting in March, and who has since shown little willingness to compromise.

## President sworn in



Hojatolislam Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani being sworn in yesterday as the President of Iran, two days after obliquely complaining that Ayatollah Khamenei, the nominal new national leader, was banging on to the post (Hazhir Teimourian writes). Despite yesterday's ceremony, there were clear signs in Tehran that the pragmatic new President faces a severe attack on his political powers by prominent hardliners, even though the Ayatollah appears to have succumbed to the immediate pressure, resigning as President fully two months before his term of office was to expire.

## Uneasy peace amid chaos of war

From Michael Knipe, Jounieh

The Montemar hotel on the cliffs overlooking Jounieh Bay, 10 miles north of Beirut, seemed like a good place to stay in war-torn Lebanon. It was only a mile or so from where the nightly hydrofoil from Cyprus docked — the only link with the outside world — and far enough outside the capital to promise a modicum of extra safety.

The six-storey hotel overlooks the sea and the sound of the waves lapping the beach gave the place a pleasurable air of relaxation.

Besides, Jounieh clearly has pretensions of being a fashionable seaside resort. Many of the stylish shops in pre-war Hamra Street in west Beirut have relocated on the coast in Jounieh and the smart neighbouring suburb of Kaslik, while beachside cafes boast names like the Monte-Carlo, La Crêperie, Chez Victor, The Beach Pub and The Pop-In.

The drive into Beirut, passing bomb-blasted apartment blocks, wrecked cars and accumulated litter, takes only 10 minutes on an eight-lane highway. "It used to take more than an hour," says Josef, my driver. He was referring to the traffic jams that occurred before March when General Michel Aoun, the Christian

leader, launched his self-described war of liberation causing the Syrians and their allies to mount a blockade on the Christian enclave.

Since then life has been even more arduous for the Christian community, but they continue to display the remarkable resilience that 15 years of civil war have honed to near perfection.

Only days after a particularly ferocious spell of bombardment, shops and offices were open for business, their windows and doors pro

● I believe in my Lebanon and trust my Lebanon ●

ected by cement breeze blocks, plastic sand bags and sand-filled oil drums.

In Chirafieh, the central commercial and residential area close to the "green line" dividing the city, the narrow streets again echoed to the blast of car horns, as Middle Eastern cities do. Only the occasional crater in the road, torn up palm trees and strands of silver ribbon strung across a street, indicating a family in mourning, marked the recent bombardment.

A further reminder came

mid-morning when what everyone calls the "boom-boom" began, indicating bombardment by 130mm guns. It was a sound we heard several more times during the morning but our conversations continued and life carried on.

"When you live with this for years you develop a sixth sense of when you are really in danger," said the official from the Lebanese Forces militia, sipping coffee casually. Like everyone here he listens to the radio for news of current bombardments just as in more peaceful parts of the world you listen to traffic reports.

There were no reports to alarm us on the drive back to Jounieh and the Montemar hotel. But Josef was the first to notice something amiss.

The shops of Kaslik were closed and there were fewer people about than there should have been. The reason became apparent as we drove up to the hotel. There was a four-foot wide crater in the car-park. The windows of the hotel foyer, the restaurant and three single-storey administration offices overlooking the swimming pool had been shattered and the wall of the hotel was pitted with shrapnel.

The waiters had been

watching the sea when five shells exploded near some coastal boats less than half a mile away. A moment later the windows shattered. A three-month-old baby girl, the daughter of a guest at the hotel, started crying and was still crying an hour later.

"Thank God no one was hurt," said Mr Tony Tayah, the hotel's urbane owner, as the staff cleared up. They were clearly in a state of shock in spite of having run the hotel since 1968 and suffered three other similar bits in the past

● Aoun is doing his best but the world is against him ●

three months. "What can we do?" said Mr Tayah. "General Aoun is doing his best but the world is against him."

"But I believe in my Lebanon and trust my Lebanon. I would never leave and neither will my daughters."

We ruminated over this, lulled into a sense of peacefulness by the waves lapping the shore and the rhythmic chirping of cicadas. In the background as the sun sank over the Mediterranean came the occasional boom-boom of more shelling.

## WORLD ROUNDUP

### Basic flaws found in Trident design

Washington — The US Navy revealed yesterday that Britain's future nuclear deterrent, the Trident II missile, has built-in design flaws that have caused it to explode in two underwater test launches (Nicholas Beeston writes). The head of the US Navy's ballistic missile programme, Rear Admiral Kenneth Malley admitted that design engineers had committed fundamental miscalculations, underestimating the amount of pressure on the missile as it passes through the water after it is fired from the submarine.

A British official said: "This is the second failure in the last two firings and therefore there is concern. But the overall picture is not that worrying." The Trident II, which will cost Britain £9 billion, had successfully completed 16 out of 19 test firings on land and the missile's test record was not inconsistent with other programmes of this kind.

### Husband despairs

The husband of the Midlands teacher missing in northern France believes it would be a miracle if she was still alive, his business partner said yesterday (Craig Seton writes). Mrs Fiona Jones, aged 26, from Kingsbury, near Tamworth, Warwickshire, disappeared on Monday after going for a cross-country cycle ride while her husband, Mark, conducted a business meeting at a 16th-century chateau at Belle Eglise, near Compiègne, 50 miles north-east of Paris. The couple were on holiday there to celebrate their first wedding anniversary.

### Poor start for Kaifu

Tokyo — Fewer than half of Japan's eligible voters approve of the week-old Cabinet of Mr Toshiki Kaifu, according to a new poll by Kyodo, Japan's domestic news agency (Joe Joseph writes). Although support for the ruling Liberal Democrats is inching up, so too is that for the opposition Socialists. The 46.5 per cent rating is the third lowest for a newly formed cabinet since Kyodo began such surveys in the 1960s and underlines the challenge the Kaifu Government faces in holding on to its majority in elections next July for the important Lower House.

### Zia is remembered

Islamabad — More than 50,000 people yesterday commemorated the first anniversary of the death of President Zia of Pakistan at his grave in Islamabad (Anatol Lieven writes). There had been widespread fears that the meeting, which was organized by the opposition, might turn into a violent protest against the Government of Miss Benazir Bhutto, the Prime Minister. But the crowd dispersed without incident after prayers had been offered for the general's soul.

### Hop-over to Sydney

Sydney — Qantas, the Australian airline, has co-opted the famous "Kangaroo Route" from Britain with one almighty hop (Robert Cockburn writes). The world's longest non-stop commercial airline flight, which left London on Wednesday, reached Sydney yesterday just over 20 hours later with a place in the record books for the Australian flag carrier. The flight set another record of sorts, with the longest official luggage delay. The bags were obliged to follow behind on the airline's regular stopping flight, one of several weight-saving tricks that made this miracle of modern travel a reality.

## Gaza set for showdown between Israel and intifada

From Richard Owen, Jabaliya Refugee Camp, Occupied Gaza Strip

At 4am it is still cold in Gaza. Groups of men make their way through the dark, squalid streets, littered with burnt out cars and rubbish, toward the Erez checkpoint which marks the border between Gaza and Israel proper. Gradually the tens become hundreds, the hundreds several thousand.

Light dawns, and with it comes the first hint of the burning heat to come. The men line up patiently outside a walled Israeli army compound, the young ones in jeans, the older ones in Arab robes and headscarves. They are called forward one by one to receive a pink slip with a number on it.

By the end of the day, after

shuffling forward, squatting on the dusty ground under makeshift awnings and standing in the sun they receive a plastic, computer-read identity card so that they can continue to work in Israel.

But when they return to Jabaliya, or Khan Yunis, or another Gaza town, a masked youth, one of the *Shehab* who direct the Palestinian *intifada*, steps out of the shadows and demands that the new Israeli-issued pass be given up "in the name of the Palestinian revolution". Few Arab workers disobey.

Gaza is heading rapidly for a final showdown between Israel and the *intifada* leadership, with 650,000 inhabitants sealed off, increasingly poor and seething with pent-up anger. "We are caught," said one Palestinian called Mah-

moud, aged 33, who was in the long queue for new cards. "I work in a restaurant kitchen in Tel Aviv."

From today, no Arab from Gaza will be allowed to enter Israel without a permit. Mahmoud looked resigned but miserable. The compound smelled of hundreds of closely-packed bodies. "I have three children," he said. Would he give his hard-won card up to the masked *Shehab* and their "popular committees"? He waited until an Israeli officer was out of earshot. "Of course, I am loyal to the Palestinian cause." But without work in Israel, how would he and his family survive? "We are used to living on nothing. And the PLO will help us."

The issuing of new cards for entry to Israel, a scheme which began two months ago, is partly intended to

collect unpaid taxes and fines. No Arab can obtain his new permit until his computerized personal record shows he owes no debts to the state.

But according to Brigadier-General Aryeh Ramot, head of the Civil Administration in Gaza, the main purpose is to screen out *intifada* activists who might use jobs inside Israel to carry out acts of violence. "We have to maximize our protection of Israeli citizens and minimize the risk of allowing in trouble-makers," he said. Records of Palestinian "criminal and security records" are also on computer.

General Ramot and other officials say the operation is a success. Sixty thousand permits have been issued so far, and Gaza Arabs are still applying. What is at stake is a test of wills. The Israelis believe they have

the upper hand because of simple economic imperatives: many Gaza Arabs depend on jobs in Israel for their livelihoods.

In Jabaliya, residents tell the story of one noted Arab family which refused to give up its permits when the *Shehab* came to call.

On the other hand, as one of the leaders of the uprising told us in a clandestine rendezvous at the back of a shop, "struggle involves suffering". He was unnervingly calm and confident, one of the impressively sophisticated activists who have emerged to lead the revolt. His eyes had a cold determination.

The Jabaliya family who had resisted, we were told, were visited again by the *Shehab*, this time 200-strong and armed with knives and iron bars. The cards were given up.



# General Aoun's last stand



In what seems a classic military confrontation from another age, Michel Aoun (left) sends his Christian troops hither and thither across Lebanon to outbluff and outmanoeuvre the vastly superior forces under Syrian control. Michael Evans dissects the battle plan with which he hopes to avert final disaster

Three storeys down in a spartan, typically military bunker beneath the bombed-out Presidential Palace at Baabda, north-east of Beirut, 53-year-old General Michel Aoun, leader of the Christian element of the Lebanese Army and Lebanon's self-appointed liberator, prepares for what could be his last stand against the occupying Syrians and their Muslim militia acolytes.

The only surprise element is the presence of his 17-year-old daughter, Mireille, who is also his secretary. The rest of the family, his wife and two more girls, moved to an address outside Beirut after spending more than two months inside the bunker, which is Aoun's command centre.

Aoun, a Maronite Christian, who has launched the most formidable challenge to Syria in Lebanon's modern history, leads a remote and highly security-conscious existence. His defiant and insulting attitude to President Assad has made his death Syria's top priority. He barely sees the sun and is very pale, spending most of his time in his command centre, or at night "moving" around the "front", the 66-mile line stretching from north of Byblos into the mountains as far as Faraya and south down to Souk el-Gharb and across to the Green Line separating mainly Muslim west and Christian east Beirut.

He has been a professional soldier all his life, a gunner trained by the French and Americans, but

had politics thrust upon him at 15 minutes' notice when the outgoing President Amin Gemayel handed him power in September 1988. He has learnt fast.

The battle for Lebanon, of course, is not a full-scale war. Because of the wider diplomatic implications for Assad, the Syrian assault is a relatively restrained affair in strictly military terms — albeit bloody and murderous for the residents of Beirut. Syria may never go for the big push and Aoun, too, has to play both a military and political role.

But the 5ft 4in general, who has pictures of his family and the Madonna in his bunker, may now face a new attempt by his enemies to crush his dreams. The Syrians have already broken the briefest of cease-fires, which had been demanded by the UN Security Council, and there was fighting yesterday, on the Green Line. Persistent reports of pro-Syrian force levels increasing rapidly at key vulnerable areas along the front line have only bolstered Aoun's determination to continue his fight against a neighbour who is trying to destroy him.

After five months of artillery duels between the Syrian army, which has 40,000 troops spread around 70 per cent of Lebanon, and Aoun's army of 12,000-14,000 Christian troops, duels that have left 772 people dead and more than 2,051 wounded, nearly all civilians, he is being forced to make rapid tactical changes to his troop deployments to ensure

that he keeps one step ahead. Aoun, whose Christian Lebanese Army is supported by the 6,000-strong Lebanese Forces (right-wing Phalangist Christian militias under the command of Samir Geagea), but more importantly by the Iraqis, has about half his men deployed on the eastern flank, along the crucial ridge that stretches from central Souk el-Gharb to Bikfaya, north-east of Beirut. This "wall" protects the so-called Christian enclave of 310 square miles.

It is crucial because if the Syrians and their militia forces broke through from their positions on the other side of the ridge at Alley and further north at Bhamdoun, they would be 10 minutes in a straight run from the Presidential Palace at Baabda and the Ministry of Defence at Yarze.

Last Sunday the Syrian 41st Special Forces Division, comprising three armoured brigades with Soviet T62 tanks and BTR60 armoured personnel carriers, supported by a brigade of Druze militia and Palestinians, attacked Aoun's 4,500-man 10th Brigade on Hill 888 at Souk el-Gharb but were repulsed.

Aoun's troops are well dug in on the western side of Souk el-Gharb, adopting a "reverse slope" defensive position, which meant the Syrian and militia forces were sitting ducks as soon as they climbed up over the crest of the ridge. Both sides will have learnt

lessons from the battle, which included the involvement of tanks in the classic role, moving in support of the infantry. For the Syrians there are three possible breakthrough points on the ridge: the now unused segment of the Beirut-Damascus road, below Alley, and south-west of Souk el-Gharb. But to use the ridge at Souk el-Gharb and to exploit the three axes leading down towards Beirut and the Presidential Palace, they will have to seize one or more of the access roads — all held by the Lebanese Army.

Aoun therefore must realize that, now he has repulsed the Syrians at Souk el-Gharb, where he faced a 3-2 troop ratio in the Syrians' favour, the biggest threat is more likely to come from the north. Here the ratio is even worse, probably 4-1.

Aoun has less than a quarter of his army guarding the northern flank. His 8th Brigade, consisting of three infantry battalions and one armoured battalion equipped with the latest American M48A5 tanks, is north of Byblos. The brigade has about 2,500 men but is being rapidly reinforced by troops from the 9th Brigade on the Green Line in east Beirut, even at the risk of weakening the traditional mid-city battlefield.

Forward of the 8th Brigade are

elements of the Lebanese Forces, which have tanks and artillery and have a foraging role. This unit of highly trained and fanatical anti-Syrian, anti-Islamic and anti-Arab Maronite Christians consisted of only 800 men. But reports say Aoun is now sending several thousand more to join them, and in the past few weeks, despite the Syrian blockade, the Lebanese forces have received huge supplies of Iraqi multiple rocket launchers and tanks.

The Syrians in the north have one division (there are reports of another one forming in the hills), by the main road from Tripoli up as far as the hills. The Syrian northern front headquarters is at Batroun, 19 miles from Byblos. The Lebanese Army claims to have destroyed the Batroun command and control centre, but there is no confirmation.

Six miles south of Batroun two Syrian brigades are located in the Matfoun Bridge area covering two roads — the Tripoli road and the other, which is about two and a half miles east to the hills. Their total manpower — including the Marada Brigade of 1,000 Christian militia troops of the former Leba-

nese President Sulaiman Franjeih, who are "in thrall" to the Syrians — is about 12,000 men.

At every position Aoun's forces are outnumbered, except on the Green Line itself, where numbers are probably even. But the Syrians have formidable backing from up to 3,500 pro-Iranian Shia militia fighters of the Hezbollah, 6,500 Amal (the main-line Shia Muslim militia), 6,000 hard-core Druze and 1,000 Palestinian guerrillas opposed to Yasser Arafat's PLO, armed by Syria.

Nevertheless, the Lebanese Army's excellent training (at the hands of the United States), morale and equipment are positive factors that could reduce the impact of the superior Syrian manpower, Iraq, Syria's sworn enemy, is keeping Aoun well supplied with modern equipment.

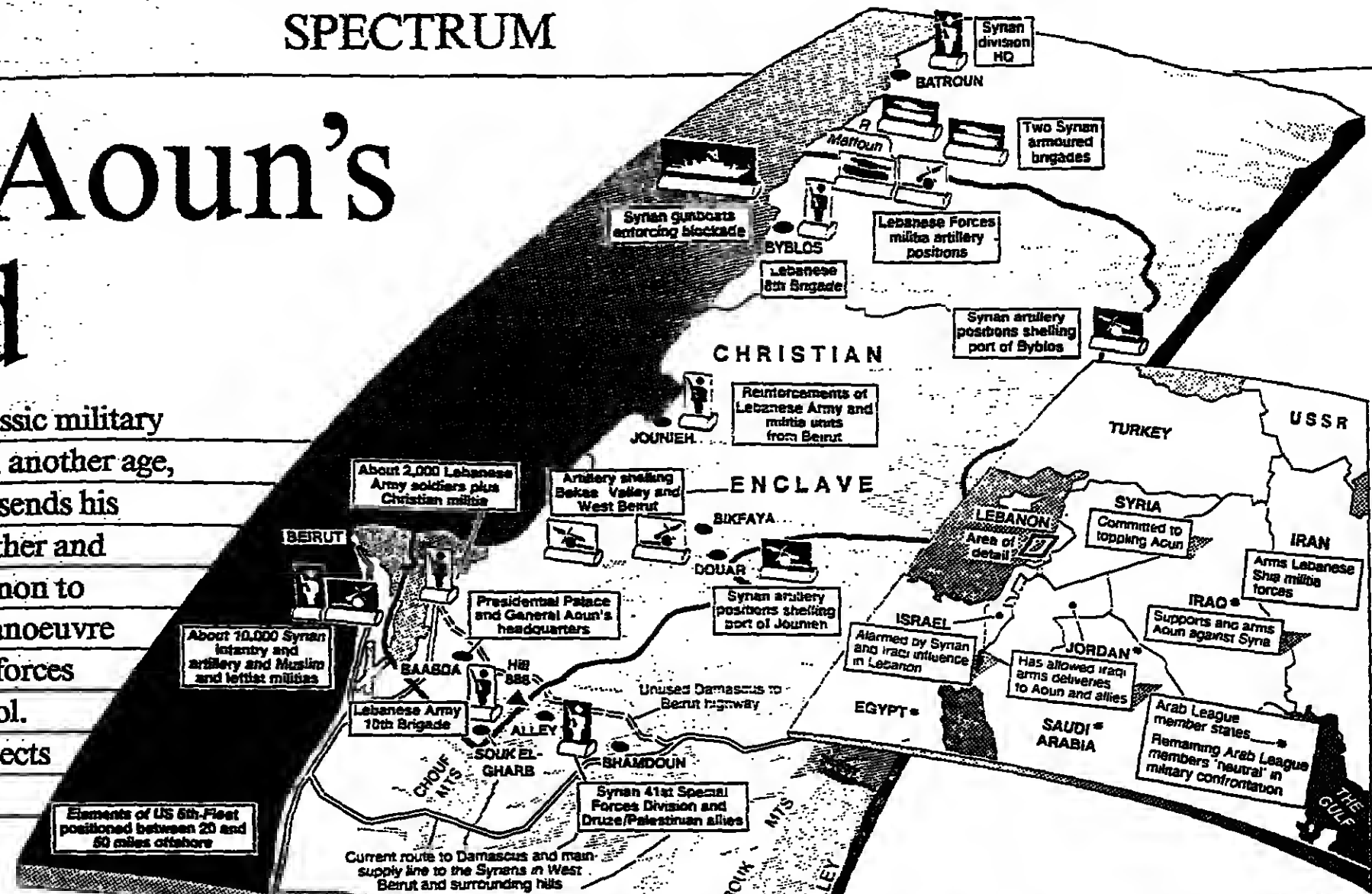
One potentially crucial factor is the Lebanese Army's lack of air cover. If the Syrian air force deployed its fighters to a ground-attack role, the Lebanese Army would have no chance. But the Syrian pilots would be flying within two minutes of Tel Aviv and the Israelis could easily decide they represented a threat and launch an attack. Damascus must realize that Israel would not tolerate Syrian fighters flying so close to its territory. At least, that is what Aoun is relying on. The Syrian artillery consists of 130mm and 155mm cannon, which are able to fire from west Beirut and carry as far as Byblos and the port of Jounieh.

Poor aiming by the Syrian gunners, though, leads to shells landing on the shore and causing civilian casualties. In Beirut, the Syrians also have 240mm mortars, their 5ft-long shells fitted with delayed fuses so that when they descend from a high trajectory, they can penetrate through six or seven storeys of a building down to the lower floors and the cellars, where people are hiding out from the artillery barrages.

Using forward observation officers to direct the fire, the Lebanese artillery bombardment is more accurate. The Lebanese have 130mm, 105mm and 155mm guns, which can fire into the Bekaa Valley and hit Syrian supply lines. This has been done to effect.

All the weaponry involved in this present confrontation is regular army main-line Warsaw Pact or Nato equipment, which gives the lie to Syrian claims that the guns are being fired by Muslim militia groups defending west Beirut on their behalf. This sort of kit does not get into the hands of militias.

Aoun is keeping the Syrians guessing about his supposed stockpile of Frog 7 surface-to-surface ballistic missiles, allegedly given by the Iraqis. He wants them to believe that as they have been allowed to shell Beirut, his capital, he has the ability to launch an attack on Damascus, their capital, less than 50 miles away.



TIMES GRAPHICS

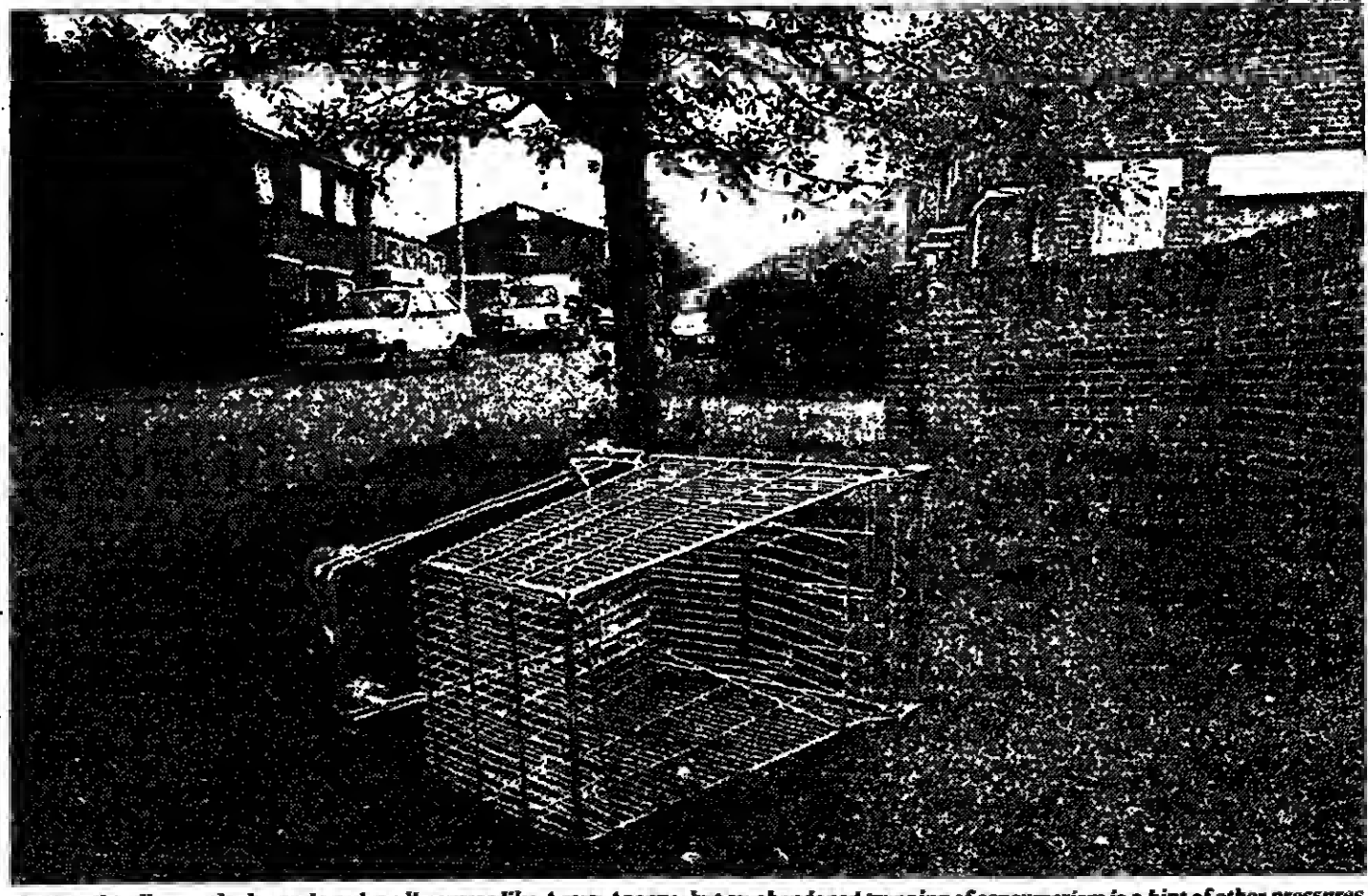
## Life in the brave new old world



VILLAGE VOICES

PART 5: Building new communities

Bar Hill village celebrated its 21st birthday this year. Alan Franks examines the aspirations of the new villages to the virtues of the old, with knobs on



Trees and trolleys: culs-de-sac have bucolic names like Acorn Avenue, but an abandoned trapping of consumerism is a hint of other pressures

Container lorries from the Mill buffer their way past the industrial estate to a horizontal wind that arrives unbroken from the Steppes. The factories and warehouses look like even bigger container lorries that have decided to shed their wheels on the same plot. Confers struggle out of the bricks like green bits on an architect's plan, but there are not enough of them to screen off the worst profiles of these buildings — blind walls, bare pipes, air ducts and service doors.

The rows of cars are as endless as the crosses in a war cemetery, and where there are no cars there are strings of steel shopping trolleys which clang deep into the body of the one in front. The strings start and expand as the customers come and go. This is the gateway to the village of Bar Hill in Cambridgeshire, late on a weekday morning, and the shop is a Tesco superstore.

The man from the county's community council, who has been talking about how a sense of place and belonging is passed down in the blood, and can survive a generation of exile, tuts and says:

"This might as well be Hatfield." Yet Bar Hill is a village; that much is official. It happens to be a new one, which makes it less of an anomaly every day. Bar Hill must also be counted as an official adult to human terms, having celebrated its 21st birthday this year.

While so far the judgements from outside have been harsh, the community itself does not regard the place as a failure. It can call as witnesses the children of the village school, who have conducted, with optimistic results, a very clear-eyed survey of Bar Hill's virtues and defects.

From a distance, Bar Hill looks like nothing more than a new suburb that has had its town confiscated. There are now 4,000 residents, and the skyline of houses is unrelieved. There are the church and the pub, traditionally neighbouring HQs of the sacred and the secular in English village life, from Chaucer to Chertiston. The Fox feels about as local as London, with the barman shouting the numbers of the chicken-nugget orders over the jukebox. The church spire is a vestigial nipple that caps a tiny octagon. If Mammon is represented by Tesco, then there is

absolutely no cootest here in the battle for dominant images. And all this was planned?

The road that girdles the settlement has a lot to contend with; taken anti-clockwise it skirts the industrial site, and taken clockwise it starts off in deafening distance of the motorway. The names of the culs-de-sac have painfully bucolic yearnings: Acorn Avenue, Foxhollow, Pheasant Rise, Partridge Drive. And yet, if you walk up through the middle, between the health centre and the church, you pass through a stile scuffed at pram height, and find yourself at the corner of a really quite immense green, with a barn-like village hall at the opposite corner.

It was planned in the 1960s by the London architect, Coville Matthews, in such a way that the residents could enjoy their privacy, while the layout meant that people would tend to bump into each other in the course of crossing the village. If you can measure the health of a community in terms of the busyness of its residents' association, then Bar Hill must be considered to be in the pink. Every month there is a newsletter vibrant with local

activity, and the longer-standing residents say that one of the best benefits of life in Bar Hill is that there is always plenty to do, and never a shortage of people prepared to organize the doing.

House prices have soared, and you would expect nothing else to a region (East Anglia) identified by the Halifax building society last year as the one with the fastest increase of property values. In Bar Hill an average two-bedroom starter home is going for £65,000, while the larger executive-type houses in The Fairway command four times that amount.

There is a degree of egalitarianism in the very novelty of such a place, how can you invoke an association of centuries for the purposes of snobbery, when the place is younger than its average inhabitant? How, for that matter, can you "spoil" such a village with new buildings, when all the old buildings are also new? Is this, at last, the unspoiled, unspoiled village?

The Rev James Newcombe has been here for seven years, and loves it. "One of the reasons is that I have a young family," he says,

"and it is an excellent place for children. It had a pretty bad reputation, but that really was ill-founded, and based entirely on the observations of people who do not live here. It was almost as though they were willing the village to fail."

"You mention egalitarianism, and that is obviously true. But something even more remarkable has happened. Our church now has six denominations, including the Roman Catholic. It has become, in effect, an ecumenical centre. I wonder how many communities you could find where such a thing has taken place. I also wonder whether it could have occurred if we had not shared this peculiar experience of having started from scratch."

Michael and Anne Duce were among the first couples to move into the village 22 years ago. "There were just four roads and no shops when we arrived," he recalls, "and we watched everything go up, just as it was planned. I think the village is now as large as it should be, but I won't be surprised if we come under tremendous pressure in the next few years from developers wanting to build more homes on the space that is left."

Bar Hill is no dream village. Dream villages are by definition unobtainable, because they cannot trade with a real world in such motion as the English countryside. To try to root a village of the past in a blueprint of the future is to build bricks without straw. "What remains, for a large number of people who crave a rural life, is the Village in the Mind," says Howard Newby, author of *The Countryside in Question*, and recently appointed chairman of the Economic and Social Research Council.

"I don't believe there is now any such thing as an unspoiled village, in the sense of unchanged village, because the ones that appear to be so will in fact have started to draw the weekenders for that very reason. The newcomers will be agents of change."

In a community composed entirely of newcomers, like Bar Hill, it becomes harder for anyone to pretend to be something he is not. Village-in-the-Mind, in the county of Fantasyshire, is a whole world away from here. If ever its spectre were to be blown across the Fenland air via Ely and Willingham and Longstanton, it would be sent packing at once by the clang of a Tesco trolley.

### SOLE SURVIVOR OF THE SIXTIES

Bar Hill, hailed as the "first new village of the century", is the sole survivor of a scheme launched in the mid-Sixties to create a necklace of villages around Cambridge to ease congestion in the city. According to Gillian Darley, author of *Villages of Vision*, a whole generation of planned new villages was abandoned when the bubble burst. In the event, no more than half a dozen villages were built around the country.

New Ash Green in Kent also fell prey to the changing economic climate. Described in 1967 as "a unique social experiment", its original developers were forced to pull out because their idealistic designs were not economic. Construction was completed by Bovis on a more conservative level. Nevertheless, a sense of community prevailed, helped by determination on the part of the new villagers and a covenant drawn up in 1968 which laid down that no radios could be played after 11pm, no cars could be parked in front of houses, and no persons of "drunken or immoral habits" could dwell in the village.

Martlesham Heath, built in the early 1970s outside Woodbridge in Suffolk, partly to serve the Post Office research establishment, has also flourished thanks to an active residents' association.

During the same period the tiny mining village of Harristown in the Lake District was revitalized when an enterprising district council rebuilt each cottage on its original site using traditional materials.

Present day schemes for new villages are still in the pipeline. The Prince of Wales hopes to create several model villages on a 350-acre site outside Dorchester in Dorset, part of the Duchy of Cornwall estate. James Gladstone, a Berkshire landowner, has commissioned designs for Upper Donnington, near Newbury, a neo-classical village encompassing a blend of flats, houses, shops and a traditional village hall. It is awaiting planning permission.

Nicholas Ridley, the former Environment Secretary, launched his Rural Village Initiative discussion paper last summer. It advocated "well-designed development on a village scale". Gillian Darley believes there is a danger that some developers could exploit the proposals by utilizing the emotive term "village" as a marketing ploy — a means of making more palatable the creation of industrial new towns.

Additional reporting by Sara Driver and Christine Hill



# TIMES DIARY

ROBIN YOUNG

**W**hen the Royal Observatory withdraws from Herstmonceux in Sussex to the clearer skies of La Palma in the Canary Islands, it will also mean the end of Greenwich Mean Time. The familiar pips on BBC radio will no longer come from the Observatory's time-keeping service but from a system of costly quartz digital timepieces supplied to Broadcasting House from Canada. It will be bad enough living on borrowed time, let alone getting it from a country known only for the production of lumberjacks, mountains, beverages for lager louts and PCB waste. The Observatory's explanation is that henceforward it intends to devote all its energy to stargazing. Am I alone in wondering whether this is a waste of time?

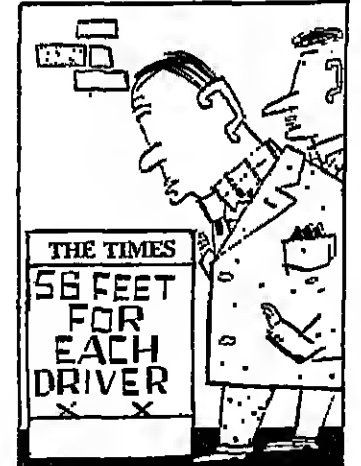
**T**he robin in my garden has recommenced singing, while the swifts are gone and Mrs Blackbird has withdrawn to a hush to mope while her feathers fall out. I see from the RSPB journal, *Birds*, that marked changes are occurring among garden birds throughout the country. Song thrushes, dunnocks and even house sparrows, says a report compiled by David Glue, are in decline. Collared doves, he writes, have peaked. But there are more spotted woodpeckers, siskins, goldfinches, and reed buntings. It is on starlings, I feel, that Glue comes unstuck. They are, he says, "endlessly amusing in any garden". Not in mine, they're not. They gang up on neighbouring roofs and storm in like a gang of muggers to steal every scrap of food in sight. At this rate no need hunting is ever going to get a look in.

**F**or the first time ever I was yesterday morning at the very spot mentioned in a BBC traffic flash. The *Today* team warned that the slip road from the A12 to the M25 was completely blocked by a jack-knifed lorry just as I was approaching it. Not only was there no tailback. The slip road was completely clear.

● The information officer at the Home Office answering for police recruitment, you might like to know, is named Robin Hood.

**D**ogs are having their day. Their food is now so upmarket that in a survey of people's impressions of advertisements, respondents mistook a brand called Sheba for pâté (it might even be healthier), and now I hear that in America the latest thing is a dog's dinner jacket. Price: \$45. Meanwhile a product called Cat Loo is claimed to be a "new scientific invention" which is going to solve the problems caused by household cats. It cannot be all that wonderful, though. The added inducement to purchase is "a free scoop".

BARRY FANTONI



"Why is it I always share mine with at least five others?"

**H**ere is the week's good cause. The three-manual tracker organ at St Mark's, Dalston, is desperately in need of repairs costing about £50,000. Built in 1871, the organ is one of the largest made by Henry Speechly but the bellows are split and could collapse any day. Good reasons to support St Mark's are that this "cathedral of the East End", the largest parish church in London, is also in the poorest of the boroughs (happily Hackney). Apart from the organ the church has (though few locals probably know it) unique stained glass windows in its roof (John Betjeman described the church as having "scalding glass") and its tower contains the only known working turret barometer in Europe. Worth a fiver (to the Vicarage, Sandringham Road, E8 2LL), surely.

**L**ooking ahead to this year's TUC conference, if you should see Norman Willis scribbling abstractedly during the boring bits he will not be writing poetry. An honorary vice-president of the Poetry Society, one of whose proudest achievements is to have persuaded British Rail to name an engine on the Hull to London line Philip Larkin, Willis admits that he used to write his own wry and whimsical verse during TUC meetings. But he has given it up, he says, because he feels it is irrelevant. Now, when it is boring, he draws pictures instead.

The millions of you with nothing better to think about will recall that exactly four weeks have passed since this rickety soapbox trembled beneath my fulminations about the greenfield site opposite my house, and the ambitions of University College School to bung thereon a big brick swifter.

During those weeks I have been relaxing in France, putting the whole business out of my mind and jotting rough notes about my next book, a thriller in which a number of prominent people are horribly done to death in an equal number of extraordinarily inventive ways, with no apparent connection between them, until a brilliant young detective from Cricklewood CID suddenly twigs that they were all governors of University College School.

Home yesterday, I started to stroll across the road to see

**Warsaw**  
Poland's communists have this week taken a leaf out of the Book of Job. It has been a time of plagues, of corruption, of aching retreat. There was even a classical Old Testament omen: on the Baltic coast, swarms of ladybirds, blown in from East Germany, have been blanketing the beaches and turning nasty.

From the Baltic coast yesterday came Mr Lech Walesa, intent on forming a non-communist government, the first in the history of the Soviet bloc; a real defeat for an already ailing ideology. The Peasants Party and the Democrats, the political ladybirds, docile partners of the communists for four decades, have discovered their own strength and broken free of a suffocating and largely pointless alliance. On Wednesday night they declared their readiness to serve under Walesa. Whether he will become prime minister is still an open question, but a Solidarity premier is inevitable.

This is more than parliamentary gamesmanship. Poland, like the Soviet Union and Hungary, is in transition between two worlds. The other reforming countries, however, have communist parties capable of controlling the pace of change. The rot in Poland's party has

Roger Boyes reports on Poland's heady air of expectation

## Hazards ahead for Walesa

spread like a devastating fungus. There are few, if any true believers. One recalls a poem by Adam Wazyk:

*They ran to us shouting:  
Under Socialism  
a cut finger does not hurt  
They cut their fingers  
They felt pain  
They lost faith*

The failure of the centrally planned communist system to meet elementary consumer expectations or even honour the contractual promises of power—job security, say, or an adequate health service—has propelled Poland into an ideological limbo, all futures betrayed. Where else to go then, but backwaste? To a form of neo-capitalism that can fill shops, restore the value of money and above all give people time to develop a private, civil society. There is an old Warsaw joke: communism is the longest, the most painful road from capitalism to capitalism.

How, though, to make this transition? Poland today resem-

bles an auction room in which political freedom and economic liberty is being bidden continuously up. There is no reserve price, no calculable limit. A non-communist premier? Fine. So why not a Solidarity premier? Also fine. The only frontiers are self-imposed: a commitment to stay in the Warsaw Pact. Up and up goes the bidding until, at last, the country will arrive at some minimal definition of market socialism.

This way, the Polish way—and the Czech way before 1968—could lead to chaos, and disaster, but is unavoidable. There is another road to market reform and that is through the mechanism of a police state. Kadarist Hungary built its economic reform on a decade of purges; Chile and South Korea also pursue economic liberalization within an authoritarian state.

But market forces tend to disperse authority, weaken central control; they create social inequality which, if ignored by

authoritarian states, becomes intolerable. Market reform, in the long term, will always demand some form of political pluralism. Poland, in any case, tried a police state model in the winter of 1981: economic reform and bayonets did not mix.

The move to a market economy requires strong government and a high degree of national consensus. Even Ludwig Erhard, the architect of West Germany's post-war miracle, had almost authoritarian power when he imposed a currency reform that wiped out personal savings at a stroke. There is no comparable authority, no comparable readiness for sacrifice in Poland.

Instead, with inflation of 236 per cent and climbing, the workers are staging dozens of wildcat strikes for pay rises so that their wives can buy meat. Their slogan is "Give us a Solidarity government", but even that will not provide ready-made solutions. The only solution for Poland is to control the present round of auction bidding

and, without resorting to the trappings of a police state, to wind down popular demand.

The Roman Catholic Church can play a role in this—above all in protecting the new poor—but mainly Poland needs a leader capable of leading, and not just dictating. Walesa's task—or that of whoever forms the Solidarity government—is to offer a second-generation contract. That is, to persuade Poles that sacrifice now will benefit their children later. Few are ready for this at the moment. The queue outside the US embassy numbers several thousand; for many worker families emigration is the only exit from crisis.

Poland, then, is a land without maps. As it lunges towards parliamentary democracy, the pace of change is accelerating. The Communist party is splintering, but so too are its erstwhile allies and Solidarity. The political undercurrents—Christian democracy, social democracy, anti-Russian populism—are all coming to the surface.

Poland was not made for a rigid parliamentary bipolar system, though as the Communist party loses its mission it is developing a more and more symbiotic relationship with Solidarity. It needs Solidarity to define its own role.

Communists, if they are to preach market reform, must abandon primitive egalitarianism. And as they have no real economic power, they cannot redistribute in favour of the weak or underprivileged. They have long ago left behind their main constituency: the depressed industrial working class.

Until today, however, the communists could unite on one thing: their contempt for Solidarity, which was irresponsible, counter-revolutionary, cryptothis, crypto-that. The communist proposal to share power with Solidarity was never intended to be a marriage of equals; it was a hostile takeover bid, an attempt to poison with power. Now, with Solidarity poised to run the country, the party must brace itself to go into opposition in a nominally communist state. That, it seems, is the price of reform.

"I'm thinking of writing to Amnesty," a party sociologist told me yesterday. "We have become an oppressed minority. There was no pause for laughter."

Roger Scruton believes we have a duty to support General Aoun against the Syrians

## Lebanon's ruthless oppressor

**F**rom its beginning the Lebanese conflict has been surrounded by such a screen of disinformation that it is hardly surprising if Western journalists often misunderstand it. Nevertheless, certain facts are common knowledge in Lebanon and ought to be common knowledge here.

The most important fact is that Syria does not recognize the existence of Lebanon as a sovereign state. It is not, therefore, exercising a "peace-keeping" function in a country whose independence it seeks to restore, but exerting its own sovereignty over territory to which it has no legal claim. Lebanon, for President Assad, is part of "Greater Syria" which, in his thinking, also includes Palestine and Cyprus.

Secondly, the Lebanese civil war was precipitated, in 1975, by the Palestinians, who had been armed in Syria and sent to Lebanon with this very intention. The delicate balance of the Lebanese state—until then the only genuine democracy in the Arab world—was destroyed, and the various factions, egged on by Syria, began to fight for control.

When Assad offered his "assistance", it was to his lackey, the outgoing president, Suleiman Frangieh, who accepted it without the authority of the Lebanese assembly, in the expectation of a suitable reward. Frangieh is now one of the privileged barons who hold lawless sway over a portion of Lebanese territory, enjoying the help and protection of the Syrian army and secret police.

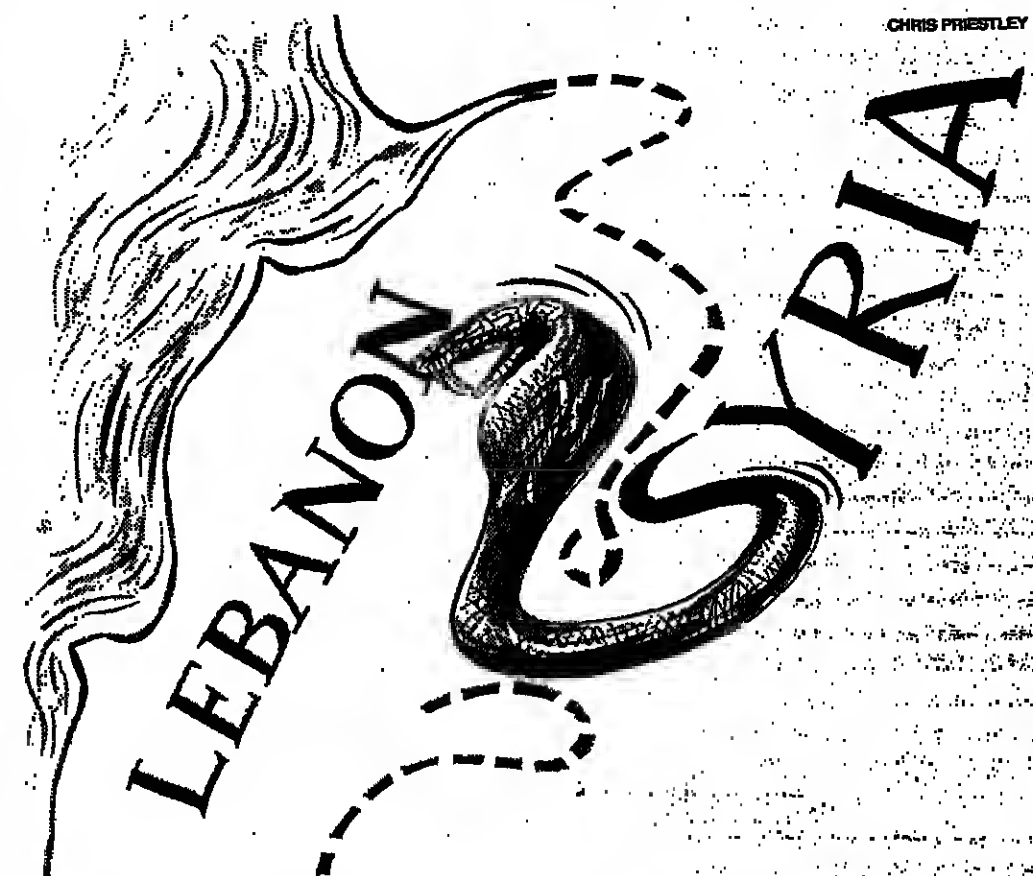
Thirdly, the Syrians do not have the support of the Lebanese Muslims. Far from it. The problem is that no Muslim on Lebanese soil may now dare to raise his voice against them unless he lives, as many do, in the so-called Christian sector. Since the Syrian occupation the leaders of the Muslim commu-

nities have been systematically assassinated as soon as they have shown any sign of objecting to Syrian rule. That was the fate of Kemal Jumblatt, leader of the Druze, who was shot as soon as he objected to Syrian gunposts on Lebanese soil. It was the fate of Musa al-Sadr, the Shia imam, who was done away with (Colonel Gaddafi assisting) when it became clear that he aimed to improve the standing of his community in an independent Lebanon.

It was the fate of Rashid Karame, the Sunni prime minister, who, after much vacillation, had begun to oppose the Syrian occupation of Tripoli, his home town. And it was the fate of Bashir Gemayel, Maronite leader and president-elect, blown to pieces by a Syrian bomb just as he was about to embark on the war of liberation that it was left to General Michel Aoun finally to undertake, in circumstances which by then were far from propitious.

**T**he most recent of these assassinations is perhaps the most telling: that of the Sunni mufiti in West Beirut, who made the error of declaring that the shells which were devastating his part of the city were launched not by the Lebanese Army in East Beirut but by the Syrians—who, as everybody in West Beirut knows, but none dares say, regularly use this method of fuelling the conflict.

For similar reasons, it would be quite wrong to regard Salim al-Hoss, the unofficial Sunni "prime minister", as legally entitled to that office, which he twice refused when urged to accept it by the outgoing president and which therefore devolved on the president's second nominee, General Aoun. Al-Hoss's position was foisted



on him by the Syrians, who had first taken his only daughter into "protective custody" to make sure he understood their meaning. And to help him in executing his duties, the Syrians ensure that Al-Hoss's pronouncements are printed in the West Beirut newspapers, so that he can discover in the course of the morning what they are.

Nobody should doubt the ferocity of the Syrian occupation. Having just returned from Lebanon, where I talked to many—mostly Muslims—who had experienced it, I can only say

that it matches anything I have read about the Nazi occupation of France or the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

Anyone remotely suspected of opposing the Syrians is imprisoned, tortured, and usually killed. The families of potential dissidents are taken hostage and killed at the slightest sign of rebellion. The economy operates under Syrian secret police "protection", and the drug trade, run by the Syrians, now dominates every other.

To suppose, therefore, that the Lebanese Muslims support the

Syrian occupation is to show a remarkable contempt for them. In fact the equivalent of a brigade of Muslim soldiers of the Lebanese army has already gone over to the Eastern sector, at great risk to their families, to fight beside Aoun. Not one of those to whom I spoke doubted that the "war of liberation" is necessary, or that Aoun has the backing of Lebanese of all confessions. Those that speak or fight on behalf of the Syrians—Nabih Berri and Walid Jumblatt, for example—do so from Syrian-held "territory", and enjoy the

rewards of compliant vassalage. Why are those facts so little known? The answer is simple. Western journalists reside, as a rule, in West Beirut and are as much hostage to the Syrians as their Muslim neighbours. They remember what happened to those, such as the French journalist Michel Seurat, the Lebanese Sunni journalist Selim Laouzi and the London-based television reporter, John McCarthy, who were openly critical of Syria. Neither Seurat nor Laouzi died pleasantly, and McCarthy is now a hostage, one of the many held under Syrian auspices in order that the hands of the West should be tied.

**B**ut our hands are tied only if we wish them to be. We have a plain duty to Lebanon, not only because of its past in the history of Christendom but also because it has been the only durable Arab democracy, the only state with a sustained rule of law and the only one whose presidents have assumed office, and left it, without the aid of bullets.

We have a duty to those Lebanese of all confessions who are fighting in the Eastern sector in a last-ditch attempt to save their country from annexation by one of the world's most vicious terrorist states. Why then, are we not contemplating the course of action which is manifestly open to us; that of lifting the illegal blockade mounted by the Syrian navy against the free ports of Lebanon?

As our experience in the Gulf demonstrates, the effective policing of international waters can have a decisive effect on local conflicts, however serious. And in this case there is absolutely no doubt who is in the right, who deserves our support, and who is our enemy.

## Having a privileged time, glad you're not here

Robert Kilroy-Silk takes issue with the snobbish view of mass tourism

**W**hat do Brigitte Bardot, Auberon Waugh and the *Independent* have in common? All are snobs, wanting to keep the good things in life to themselves rather than share them with the rest of us.

For Bardot, San Tropez was fine when she and her strays had it to themselves—but now it has been discovered by the *hot polloi* she is leaving for the rest of the summer in a pout. Waugh says he will not go near China now it has been discovered by the masses. The *Independent* smugly insists that while middle-class tourism, the "afficionados of the Dordogne or Provence", is acceptable, mass-market tourism is to be condemned.

In common with much of the British press, it has turned its cold, patronizing stare on those who manage to pay for a couple of "weeks' package holiday abroad. Hardly able to disguise its glee at the difficulties some have encountered this year, the *Independent* takes inexpressible pleasure in the fact that Mediterranean package holidays

"look increasingly unappealing", and gloats that there will probably be bankruptcies among the tour operators.

Better, it asserted, if everyone had stuck to the "intelligent tourism" of the rich who have "patronized the French Riviera for almost two centuries", forgetting, or ignoring, the fact that the only time the recent ancestors of those now on a package holiday ever went abroad was to fight and die for their country. Now that their offspring can travel in their own right they are smirking at and begrudging their pleasure.

Brigitte Bardot, Auberon Waugh and the *Independent* are not the only ones. Large sections of the British so-called quality press have adopted an equally superior attitude, swooping with delight on the mishaps that have occurred this year in some foreign parts. From the moment that sewage, alleged to have caused typhoid, was discovered on the beach at Cap de Salou in

Spain, we have been drowned in a cascade of gloating cartoons, patronizing editorials and censorious reports.

And what do all these problems amount to? Not much, considering that it's a whole continent we are talking about. The *Daily Telegraph*, which went to great trouble and expense to compile a country-by-country analysis, complete with explanatory maps, was hard put to sustain its indignation.

It warned us of typhoid in Salou, sunstroke in Almeria, mugging in Seville, forest fires and floods in France, beggars and bandits in Italy, pollution in Florence and, straining hard to make a poor story more dramatic, there were rumours of a gang in Istanbul offering tourists drugged sweets before stealing their travellers' cheques. And luggage was being stolen at Corfu airport, as if it was always safe at Gatwick and Heathrow.

The *Sunday Telegraph* sum-

med it all up. "For millions of British tourists", it grandly declared, "filthy beaches, contaminated water and unhygienic hotels and restaurant kitchens will be unwanted holiday companions this summer." So will they be in Britain. For every word of that sentence, which no doubt is true of some Mediterranean resorts, applies equally to this country, probably more so. And we have added to it the risk of catching meningitis at Brixham, in Devon.

For staying at home also has its perils. Indeed, the hazards are often greater than those attributed to the Costa. Apart from the congestion at the airports for those wanting domestic flights, there are jams on the roads, not just at weekends, but every day, every week, and chaos on the railways and the London Underground. Indeed, on the same page on which the *Independent* scorned the pitfalls of the foreign package holiday, it carried an

extensive account of how London, with its fumes, fumes, legions of disease, muggers and general decay, had become "an example of British rot". It is foreign hotel standards, with en suite bathrooms and swimming pools, that the British now demand at home and which our boarding houses in Blackpool and Brighton aspire to.

Our beaches are among the filthiest in Europe, with untreated sewage appearing on more than one of them, our drinking water is by far the most polluted, and much of our food is contaminated. The *Daily Telegraph* says that hotels and restaurant kitchens abroad are unhygienic, yet hardly a week has passed in Britain this year without yet another outbreak of listeria or salmonella poisoning.

Then there are the muggers and the jobs. Drunken riots occur so frequently nowadays—for example, police fought 200 youths for three hours in Harlow

last weekend—that they not only go unreported but the police also tend to avoid them.

None of this minimizes the problems of the Mediterranean resorts, but it does put them into the context of our own local difficulties, which are many and great. The fashionable snobbery of decrying the package holiday as asserting that staying at home in Britain is best is all right for those with inherited Georgian houses in Somerset, or those who can afford to spend nine weeks in the Lake District.

Most of those from the back streets of Birmingham, Bradford, Liverpool and Leeds have no such choice. These people, along with coal miners and steel workers, who produce our essential goods and services were called heroes when they fought in all our wars right up to the Falklands. They were not sneered at then.

Perhaps their self-appointed superiors, the arbiters of taste and their London mouthpiece, could leave them to enjoy their holidays in peace.

## When Crickle was almost Holly



ALAN  
COREN

Greystoke, obviously reconvened for the purposes of *Greystoke II*, in which the subsequent career of Tarzan is charted; perhaps, who knows, to the climax in which he is summoned from Backben-

les-deux-Eglises to lead the Conservative Party?

Well, now. How were I and the other communards to react to this? A film industry was an altogether different kettle of development from a prep school. Giant wonky letters in the hillside spelling CRICKLEWOOD might upset some, but others might well feel the heart beat a mite faster at the prospect of Tinseltown. We might all get swimming pools and see Meryl Streep in the laundrette. Hacks among us might be called in for emergency script-surgery at a tanner a word. To use of *cat/bild*/lodge as extra, £5,000, used notes only. A series of *The Cricklewood Greats* could

well see Barry Norman chirping on our very own front walls, a feature no estate agent could ignore in the imminent boom.

Of course, there would probably be a lot of wild parties, full of undraped nubilia trying to ingratiate itself with influential local journalists in the hope of a column-inch or two; but we should just have to learn to take the rough with the smooth.

Amphibious leading in my head, I walked down the path towards the hivoac. Much faded denim ambled among the snaking cables, but if there were major stars about, they evaded my discreet gazing. Probably in make-up. Possibly snorting some-

thing behind the bike-shed. Having nervous breakdowns, perhaps. They do that.

Thus it was that, suddenly addressed, I jumped. A young man was inquiring whether he could help. He gave me his card. It said he was Jevon O'Neill.

No-one called Jevon had ever come to Cricklewood before. I wanted to ask if he was any relation, because if you can call a girl Tatum, you might very well call a boy Jevon, but I didn't.

I merely said: "What's the film about?" He said: "It's a commercial for the *Sun*. We'll be gone by tea-time."

Their revels now are ended. The insubstantial pageant just went up the road in half a dozen trucks and took the baseless fabric of this vision with it. Jevon said the commercial goes out on ITV this Sunday, but I needn't worry. It doesn't mention Cricklewood.









## COURT CIRCULAR

**CLARENCE HOUSE**  
August 17: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was present this afternoon at the celebrations in Wick to mark the Quarter-centenary of the Royal Burgh. Her Majesty subsequently opened the completed Heritage Centre.

Ruth, Lady Fermoy and Sir Martin Gilliat were in attendance.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
August 17: The Princess of Wales, Patron, Birthright, opened the Harris Birthright Centre for the prevention of Cervical Cancer at the Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen.

Subsequently, Her Royal Highness attended a luncheon given by the Aberdeen branch of the Charity at Ardee House Hotel, Blair, South Deeside Road, Kincardineshire.

Miss Anne Beckwith-Smith and Mr Philip Mackie were in attendance.

**THATCHED HOUSE LODGE**  
August 17: Prince Alexander and Sir Angus Ogilvy were present this evening at a Charity Premiere of the film *My Left Foot*, in aid of the "One Small Step" Appeal (Helping Children with Cerebral Palsy at Guy's Hospital) at the Curzon Mayfair Cinema, London, W1.

Mrs Peter Afia was in attendance.

## Mother Theresa visits Albania

Mother Theresa is paying the first known visit to Albania by a Christian dignitary since religion was banned there in 1967. The Albanian news agency ATA said yesterday that Mother Theresa met Nehmeti Hoxha, widow of the late Albanian leader Enver Hoxha, to the Albanian capital Tirana. She also held talks with Albanian Foreign Minister Reis Malia.

Mother Theresa, winner of the 1979 Nobel peace prize, is an ethnic Albanian, born in 1910 in what is today the Yugoslavian town of Skopje and was then part of the Ottoman Empire.

## Anniversaries

**BIRTHS:** Antonio Salieri, composer, Legnano, Italy, 1750; Meriwether Lewis, explorer, Charlottesville, Virginia, 1744; John Russell, Earl Russell, prime minister 1846-52, 1865-66, London, 1792; Francis Joseph, Emperor of Austria, King of Hungary (1867), 1848-1916, Vienna, 1830.

**DEATHS:** Genghis Khan, Mongol emperor 1173-1227, Mongolia, 1173; Guido Reni, painter, Bologna, 1642; James Beattie, poet, Aberdeen, 1803; André-Jacques Garnerin, aeronaut, Paris, 1823; Honoré de Balzac, Paris, 1850; Sir William Fairbairn, Bt, engineer, Moor Park, Surrey, 1874; W H Hudson, author and naturalist, London, 1922.

## Birthdays today

Professor R.M. Acheson, epidemiologist, 68; Mr Brian Aldiss, science fiction writer, 64; Sir Bryan Askew, chairman, Yorkshire Regional Health Authority, 59; Dame Josephine Barrow, obstetrician and gynaecologist, 77; Dr F.R. Bettley, dermatologist, 80; Mr James Burrell, chief executive, Halifax Building Society, 55; Mr Godfrey Evans, cricketer, 69; Lord Grantham, QC, 68; Lord Kaberry of Adel, 82; Miss Moura Lympany, concert pianist, 73; Mr R.A.E. Magee, gynaecologist, 75; Sir John Mason, former vice-chancellor, Meteorological Office, 66; Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, 61; Mrs V.L. Pandit, Indian diplomat, 89; Mr H.S.K. Peppitt, solicitor, 59; Sir David Philbald, civil servant, 77; Mr Roman Polanski, film director, 56; Mr Justice Potts, 58; Mr Robert Redford, actor, 52; Mr Willie Rushion, author, cartoonist and broadcaster, 52; Mr Patrick Sheverson, civil aviation and shipping expert, 70; Mr Casper Weinberger, former American Secretary of Defence, 72; Professor J.S.G. Wilson, economist, 75; Miss Shelley Winters, actress, 67.

## Appointments

Latest appointments include: Mr Justice Cazalet to be a Deputy Lieutenant of East Sussex. Mr Graham Wyn Jones to be an Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police with effect from September 1.

## National day of protest over funding of the arts

By Simon Tait, Arts Correspondent

The National Campaign for the Arts is planning a National Arts Advocacy Day for October 25 to lobby Parliament over the effect of inflation on arts funding.

The director general of the Arts Council has already said that inflation "is close to making a nonsense of three-year funding", under which arts spending, pegged at 2 per cent a year for three years, has been overtaken by inflation, now running at more than 8 per cent.

"There are other important matters we shall be highlighting, such as freedom of expression in the wake of the Rusdie affair, the future of the arts in the Education Reform Act and plans for the

Mr D.J. Mitchell and Miss A.C. Romilly. The engagement is announced between David, youngest son of Cdr and Mrs Jack Mitchell, of London SW11, and Arabella, daughter of Mr Simon Romilly, of Ludlow, Shropshire, and The Marchioness of Ailesbury, of Remnantz, Marlow, Buckinghamshire.

Captain W.M. Wood and Miss M.A. McLaughlin. The engagement is announced between Captain William Wood, 1st Battalion The Gordon Highlanders, youngest son of Mr and Mrs W.M.D. Wood, of Broughty Ferry, Dundee, and Monica, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs J.A. McLaughlin, of Rutherglen, Glasgow.

Mr J.M. Berland and Miss S. Taylor. The engagement is announced between Jonathan, only son of Mr and Mrs George Berland, of Hampstead, London, and Susan, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Henry Taylor, of Southgate, London.

Mr R.W. Bishop and Miss L.A. Howatson. The engagement is announced between Robert, elder son of Mr Richard and the late Mrs Judy Bishop and stepson of Mrs Patricia Bishop, of Sursley, Berkshire, and Ann, daughter of Mr and Mrs James Howatson, of Wiston, Biggar, Lanarkshire.

Mr D.R. Beasdale and Miss R.M. Beves. The engagement is announced between David, youngest son of Mrs Beatrice Beasdale and the late Mr A. Beasdale, of Redhill, Surrey, and Rosemary, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs Geoffrey Beves, of Esher, Surrey.

Mr R.J.C. Boulton and Miss C.J. Gishborne. The engagement is announced between Roderick James Cochrane, eldest son of Major Robert Boulton, of Reigate, and Mrs Patricia Beale, of Farnham, Surrey, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin Gishborne, of Cowdee, Banbridge, Kent.

Dr A.J.B. Brady and Miss L.E. Cooper. The engagement is announced between Adrian, elder son of Mr and Mrs Conall Brady, of The New Town, Edinburgh, and Lucy, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs David Cooper, of Harrow on the Hill, Middlesex.

Mr J.E.D. Buchanan and Miss S.Z.B. Parsons. The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs William Buchanan, of Black Ven Farm, Fletching, Sussex, and Suzi, daughter of Mr Nicholas Parsons, of Wyke, Rissington, Gloucestershire, and Mrs Denise Parsons, of Longborough, Gloucestershire.

Mr D.W. Chetwode Clarke and Miss F.M. Buchanan. The engagement is announced between Dominic, son of Mr and Mrs Roger Chetwode Clarke, of Fulham, London, and Fiona, daughter of Dr and Mrs Kenneth A. Buchanan, of Stockport, Cheshire.

Mr A.A. Cook and Miss A.M. Edwards. The engagement is announced between Adrian, youngest son of the late Mr Thomas Cook and of the late Mrs M. V. Cook, of Acocks Green, Birmingham, and Alexandra, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Jeremy Edwards, of Fleet, Hampshire.

Monsieur L. Coeururier and Miss S.J. Goodman. The engagement is announced between Luc, elder son of Monsieur and Madame Claude Coeururier, of Assières, France, and Sarah Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Keith Goodman, of Hampstead, London.

Mr A.J. Davis and Miss J.A. Wilson. The engagement is announced between Anthony, son of Mr and Mrs R.E. Davis, Esherley, Co Durham, and Julie, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs F.T. Wilson, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham.

Mr M.J.E. Flexman and Miss C.S. Russell. The engagement is announced between Mark, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Flexman, of Limes, Poyys, and Caroline, eldest daughter of Dr and Mrs Michael Russell, of Wimborne, Dorset.

Mr M.J. Cox and Miss J.K. Holden. The engagement is announced between Michael John, only son of Mr and Mrs Lindsey Cox, of Mentone, Melbourne, Australia, and Jeanne Katherine, second daughter of Dr and Mrs John Holdco, of Farnborough, Hampshire.

Mr M.D. Holden and Miss M.M.A.R. Cooke. The marriage is announced between Mark Douglas, only son of Dr and Mrs John Holden, of Farnborough, Hampshire, and Michelle Mary Anne Bannock, of Farnborough, Hampshire, daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Cooke, of Sunningdale, Berkshire, will take place on Saturday, August 26, at the Holy Trinity Parish Church, Sunningdale, Berkshire.

Mr A.P. Johnstone and Miss H.M. Drummond. With great pleasure the engagement is announced of Andrew, only son of the Reverend and Mrs B. Johnstone, of Cines, N.S.W., to Helena Mhairi, youngest daughter of Captain and Mrs S.H. Drummond, of Petersfield, Hampshire.

Mr T.F.Q. Leeper and Miss J.M. Bowden. The engagement is announced between Tim, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Brian Leeper, of Hambledon, Surrey, and Jan, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Allan Bowden, of Staplecross, East Sussex.

Mr M.H. Lister and Miss M.F. Scott. The engagement is announced between Michael Howard, younger son of Alan and Bobby Lister, of Hale Barns, Cheshire, and Marcia Fiona, daughter of Sidney and Vera Scott, of Belfast.

Mr P.I. Mitchell and Miss A.A. Denness. The engagement is announced between Peter Lawrence (Mick), son of Mr and Mrs W.P. Mitchell, of Stratford, New Zealand, and Katherine Anne (Katie), eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Denness, of Kingsclere, Hampshire.

Mr L.J. Morris and Miss J.M. Davies. The engagement is announced between Ieuan, only son of the late Mr Ieuan John Morris and of Mrs Gwladys Morris, of "Woodstock", Graigwen, Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan, and Josephine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Kenneth J. Davies, of "Hafod y Dail", Solva, Pembrokeshire.

Mr D.F. Sanderson and Miss F.J. Use. The engagement is announced between David, eldest son of Mr and Mrs F.L. Sanderson, of Burwash, Sussex, and Fiona, eldest daughter of Mrs Barbara Michael, of Rolleston, Staffordshire.

Mr M.R. Sinclair and Miss J.M. Walman. The engagement is announced between Michael Ross, younger son of Dr and Mrs Alastair Sinclair, of Messingham, South Humberside, and Julia Mary, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Walman, of Dymock, Gloucestershire.

Mr P. Walton and Miss F. Howard. The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Mrs Norma Walton and the late Mr Tony Walton, of Brampton, Ontario, and Francesca, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Howard, of Much Hadham, Hertfordshire.

Mr D.F.A. Willett and Miss M.F. Hurst. The engagement is announced between Daniel Frederick Ambrose, younger son of Mr and Mrs F.A. Willett, of Beabourne Lees, Kent, and Muffin, daughter of Mr and Mrs M.J. Hurst, of Crapstone House, Devon.

**Marriage**  
Mr M.A. Collis and Miss S.G. Holden. The marriage took place on July 8, at St Peter's Parish Church, Farnborough, Hampshire, between Michael Anthony, elder son of Mr Anthony Collis and the late Mrs Sheila Collis, and Sally Gillian, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs John Holden, of Farnborough, Hampshire.

## Forthcoming marriages

## OBITUARIES

### GEORGE IGNATIEFF

#### From Russian emigré to Canadian diplomat

George Ignatieff, a member of a Russian Noble Family who became one of Canada's most eminent diplomats, died in Sherbrooke on August 10th following a heart attack. He was 75.

Tall and distinguished looking, Ignatieff served under six Canadian Prime Ministers in posts as varied as the United Nations, NATO and the Canadian High Commission in London.

He was born in St Petersburg, now Leningrad, on December 16th, 1913, the son of Count Paul and Princess Natalie Ignatieff. His father, education minister under Tsar Nicholas II, was jailed by the Bolsheviks in 1918 but was released on the intervention of former students who pronounced him enlightened and progressive.

The family, with five sons including George, fled Russia shortly afterwards and made their way to England. In 1928 they moved on to Canada, where George attended Lower

Canada College in Montreal and, later, Jarvis Collegiate Institute in Toronto. After taking a BA degree at the University of Toronto, he went to Oxford on a Rhodes scholarship, graduating in 1938 with an MA.

He worked for a time with British Army intelligence after World War II broke out, then joined Canada's external affairs department and went to work as third secretary at the High Commission in London.

After the war he was named diplomatic advisor to the Canadian delegation to the UN Atomic Energy Commission. Other appointments abroad included Ambassador to Yugoslavia and Canadian representative on the Geneva-based, multi-national disarmament committee. He also served as Canadian Ambassador to NATO and as permanent Canadian representative at UN headquarters in New York.

In 1955, when Ignatieff was the External Affairs Depart-

ment's chief of defence liaison at Ottawa, he accompanied Lester Pearson, then External Affairs minister, on a trip to the Soviet Union. There he was introduced to Nikita Khrushchev, who mischievously but mistakenly remarked that he knew all about the Ignatieff family—George's father had served under Alexander Kerensky in the provisional government at St Petersburg. "I told him he was mistaken," Ignatieff recounted in later years, "that my father had never served anyone other than the Tsar."

He left the diplomatic service in 1972 to become provost of Trinity College in the University of Toronto, where he remained for eight years. Later, from 1980 to 1986, he was chancellor of the University.

He is survived by his wife Alison and two sons: Michael, author and BBC TV broadcaster, and Andrew, of Toronto.

### AMANDA BLAKE

#### "Miss Kitty" of Gunsmoke television series

Amanda Blake, the American redhead best known for her portrayal of Kitty Russell, the kind-hearted saloon owner in the long-running television series *Gunsmoke*, died in Sacramento of cancer on August 16 at the age of 60.

The series, set in Dodge City, Kansas, at the end of the last century, was one of the most popular of all television series. It enjoyed one of the longest runs - 20 years - and was high in the British television popularity charts during the late 1950s and 1960s.

Born Beverly Louise Neil, in Buffalo, New York, on February 20, 1929, Amanda Blake determined to be an actress at the age of six, and while still a schoolgirl participated in all the dramatic and speech clubs she could. She made her debut in a school play at the age of ten and later studied acting at Buffalo's Studio Club.



While still in her teens she moved to Hollywood and signed a contract with MGM. Her first film role was in *My Darling Clementine* in 1946. She alternated her screen work with supporting roles in several plays. She later had a leading part in the Columbia Pictures film *Country Meets Scotland Yard*.

Her other films included *High Society* and *A Star is Born*. But it was her role as "Miss Kitty" in *Gunsmoke* that made her name, starting alongside James Arness as Marshal Matt Dillon, and Milburn Stone as "Doc" Adams. She played the part for almost 20 years, until 1975.

For many years she was a two-packs-a-day cigarette smoker and in 1977, when she had surgery for cancer of the mouth, was warned that her health was in serious danger because of her habit, but she only partly relented.

She campaigned on behalf of the American Cancer Society and, in 1984, received its courage award, which was presented to her by President Reagan.

Blake was married five times. Her last marriage in 1984 to Mark Spaeth, a Texan developer, ended in divorce.

## Bellamy celebrates the Nutfield newts



Professor David Bellamy, the environmentalist, celebrating with youngsters yesterday after officially opening Marsh pond, Nutfield Marsh, near Reigate in Surrey. Local volunteers have turned an overgrown and silt-choked marsh into a haven for wildlife, where the great crested newt, an endangered species, now breeds. The restoration scheme has already won an award in the Shell Better Britain Campaign.

## University news

**Oxford**  
The Master and Fellows of University College have selected Mr J. H. Smith to be Procurator.

**Glasgow**  
Professor Robert W. K. Odoni, who holds a personal chair in number theory at Exeter University, has been appointed to a chair in mathematics from December 1.

**Wales**  
University of Wales College of Cardiff  
Dr Ken Broadley, of the Welsh School of Pharmacy, and Dr Peter Williams, of the School of Chemistry and Applied Chemistry, have been promoted to the posts of reader of the University of Wales.

## SCIENCE REPORT

### Dark matter irony of Leo's mysterious hydrogen cloud

Efforts to learn the secrets of a mysterious cloud of hydrogen gas in space, described by its discoverers, Stephen E. Schneider, of the University of Massachusetts, and his colleagues as an "ado about much nothing" (*Science Report*, 25th March) may have, at last, produced results.

The doughnut-shaped ring of gas in the constellation Leo is as enormous as it is enigmatic. At about 650,000 light years in diameter, it is approximately 6,000 times the diameter of our own galaxy. But until recently, nobody could offer any plausible explanation for its existence.

Schneider and his colleagues mounted an intensive investigation of the cloud, and found that it was made of pure hydrogen, probably left over from the formation of the small cluster of galaxies round about it, so, then its survival intact for billions of years was remarkable.

The cloud is associated with a huddle of galaxies, the brightest being the spiral galaxy Messier 96 (or M96, for short). The constellation of Leo is particularly rich in galaxies of all shapes and sizes, but researchers disagree on the extent to which these galaxies clump together to form discrete, gravitationally-bound clusters, as opposed to forming a random spread. The

roots of the argument lie in the statistics astronomers use to define clusters, tests which may not have independent corroboration from telescopic observation.

In the latest issue of the *Astrophysical Journal* (vol 343, pp 94-106), Schneider shows that the cloud, from its shape and estimated mass, can be used to "predict" the locations of the galaxies gravitationally associated with it.

The giant elliptical galaxy M105 and the spiral NGC 3384 lie the centre of the doughnut-shaped ring, just as predicted by the theory. M96 orbits round the cloud, helping to maintain the shape of the cloud. Several other galaxies can also be associated with the cloud. And because they are all in some way connected with the cloud, they must all belong in the same cluster. Other galaxies in the same area of the sky, once thought to be part of the M96 cluster, are actually much further away and are not dynamically associated with it.

Part of the interest in the investigation lay in the search for "dark matter", a hypothetical form of matter which is totally undetectable but for its gravitational effects. Many researchers agree that the universe was once compressed into an infinitely hot, point-

sized space, which then exploded as the Big Bang and has been expanding outwards ever since.

But the end of the universe is more difficult to imagine: cosmologists cannot decide whether it will just go on expanding, eventually grind to a halt and begin to contract, ending up as a Big Crunch. The second option requires that the universe contains more than a certain amount of mass, but the amount of mass we see as galaxies may not be enough. So the theorists who favour the Big Crunch idea suggest that the missing mass is made of invisible dark matter.

Schneider first thought that the Leo hydrogen cloud might contain some of this dark matter, but the results of his analyses of the motion of the galaxies around it indicate that the cloud, although very big, contributes no more to the dynamics of the cluster than one would expect from a cloud made of hydrogen.

This seems to rule out the possibility that dark matter forms a significant part of the cloud's mass. That the cloud itself is just about the darkest matter imaginable (without actually being invisible) is ironic.

Henry Gee

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## LT-GEN THRASYVOULOS TSAKALOTOS

### Wartime Greek hero of Italian campaign

Lieutenant-General Thrasyvoulos Tsakalotos, DSO, OBE (Hon), former Chief of the Greek Army General Staff, who fought with the British Eighth Army in Italy during the Second World War, died in Athens on August 15. He was 92.

He played a key role in the defeat of the Greek communist insurgents during the 1944-49 Civil War, but three years ago he pioneered a national reconciliation campaign. It culminated in an emotional get-together with "General" Markos Vafiadis, veteran commander of the communist forces who had just been repatriated after nearly 40 years of exile in the Soviet Union.

Born in Preveza, western Greece, on April 2, 1897, he graduated from the Army Officer Cadet School in 1916. He first saw action during the First World War and the abortive Greek thrust into Asia Minor in the early 1920s.

He was a colonel in command of the 40th Evzone Regiment when Italy attacked Greece from Albania in 1940.

When the country was overrun by the Axis forces, he first joined the resistance, then in 1943 he fled to the Middle East.

A few months later, in April 1944, he was put in charge of the Third Mountain Brigade, which became known as the Rimini Brigade for its part in the capture of that Italian town. It won him his DSO from the British.

After the liberation of Greece in 1944, he then Prime Minister, George Papandreu, father of the present Socialist leader, ordered him to repatriate the Rimini Brigade to support the British in quelling the communist uprising of December 1944.

He took an active part in the Greek Army's campaign against the communist insurgents of the so-called Democratic Army, in the late 1940s, first as division commander, then as commanding officer simultaneously of the First and Second Army Corps. The troops under his command were deployed in north-western Greece where the bulk of

the communist forces operated until they were defeated in 1949 and fled across the northern frontiers.

He became Chief of the Greek General Staff in 1951, but retired one year later at his own request. Although he remained active in public life, he served as Greek Ambassador in Belgrade between 1957 and 1960.

In 1961, King Paul had decided to appoint him Prime Minister of a caretaker cabinet that was to conduct the general elections. The offer was withdrawn after it was found that the General had prepared his own list of ministers rather than wait for the King's instructions.

His reunion with "General" Markos, his adversary in the field, in 1986 drew sharp criticism from his fellow combatants, but seemed to be vindicated by subsequent political developments in Greece which, at the time of his death, had a coalition government jointly supported by the conservatives and the communists.

### FRANK SPRAGG

#### Vintage years for Qundle rugby

Frank Spragg, who will be remembered for his services to Qundle School where he was on the teaching staff from 1927 to 1965, died on August 3, aged 84.

His skill as a rugby coach was based on close study of detail and up-to-date knowledge. Full-back for Oxford University in 1926, he continued to play for a while after going to Qundle and captained a distinguished OMT side who, in those days, played many of the leading clubs. He also represented East Midlands.

Most important was the

warmth, humour and love of the game itself which he enriched the rugby football of Qundleans. As his reputation spread, he was in demand to lecture on rugby courses and to produce a large part in the production of the *Rugby Union Coaching Manual* in 1952.

Spragg also played cricket for the Oxford University Authentics and fives for the university and coached both sports at the school, together with rugby, for many years. During his period Qundle won the Public Schools' doubles championship in every year

between 1935-1949.

His contribution to Qundle School was by no means confined to sports. Many Qundleans have cause to be grateful to him for their success in Latin which was a compulsory subject then for entry into Oxford and Cambridge.

Spragg was not ready for compulsory retirement from Qundle in 1965 and went back to his old school, Merchant Taylors, and ran the rugby for two seasons before devoting more time to his newspaper reporting. His wife Esme died in 1981.

## An elementary case of pollution for Sherlock

By David Rowan

When a farmer in the Bristol area was suspected of leaking a home-made fertiliser into the Avon, the local river authority sent its ingenious pollution detector, nicknamed "Sherlock", to investigate.

Placed inconspicuously along the river bank, Sherlock patiently recorded data on a computer, awaiting a sudden rise in ammonia levels. When a rain-storm caused fertiliser to spill into the water, Sherlock diligently collected samples, recorded the changes, and used a built-in Cefmet cordless telephone to call a water pollution officer to the scene.

Faced with computer-generated graphs and charts implicating his property as the source, the farmer sheepishly accepted responsibility for the pollution.

"He had to admit that it was a fair cop," Mr David Palmer, catchment control manager at

Wessex Rivers, said with the pride of an international crime-buster. "We had no more trouble with him and did not need to bring a prosecution."

Mr Palmer designed Sherlock after realising that "most water authorities respond to the effects of pollution - but we wanted to get there while it was happening". Seven of £10,000 battery-operated systems are being used in Somerset and Avon by Wessex Rivers, part of Wessex Water, and some 40 incidents of pollution have successfully been traced and dealt with in 18 months.

The idea behind Sherlock is elementary: placed on a riverbank opposite any suspicious discharge pipe, it probes the constant readings so that evidence is at hand immediately pollution occurs. Once excessive ammonia, oxygen or nitrates are detected it sets off other sampling machines up

and down stream to measure where the level is strongest and hence identify the source.

An inspector is automatically alerted, and with a laptop computer can examine data over the telephone before arriving at the site.

Developed over two years, the sampling machinery was the most expensive part, at £2,500, and the portable telephone costs about £1,500. All the components are available commercially, but Wessex Rivers is considering patenting the complete unit, contained in a three-foot box, which was first used in the autumn. Vandalism has proved only a minor problem.

The original Sherlock would undoubtedly light his pipe in approval. "You know my methods, Watson," he warned in *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*. "It is a capital mistake to theorize before one has data."







## THE ARTS

## Highly coloured

## TELEVISION

William Leith

The producers of *The Troubles* (Channel 4), the acclaimed 1981 documentary about Northern Ireland, had the bright idea of representing everything in the film with visual symbols. For instance, whenever Protestants were mentioned, we would see a phalanx of Orangemen marching down a street. Catholics were represented by an equivalent bunch in green shirts, with life and drums. When the commentary turned to violence, we saw gravestones silhouetted in the sunset.

This had the effect of endorsing, for the casual viewer, the idea that Northern Ireland is a place where there is no possibility whatsoever of anybody doing anything normal for even five minutes. People were depicted as nothing but manifestations of fanatical points of view. Everyone was having Trouble.

The documentary started off like a John Carpenter movie. The blacked-out hulks of burnt-out houses loomed towards the camera to the accompaniment of doomy music. This represented *The Troubles* in general. It looked just like a fictional post-apocalyptic landscape. You expected the people walking around it to be mutants.

But the main point of this first episode of the series was to explain the historical routes of today's Trouble. We were shown a map of Ireland with a red blob on it just north of Dublin — this was the Pale, the first bit to be settled by the Brits. The narration was too hollow and unconvincing to explain, to those who might not know, that this was the origin of the expression "beyond the Pale".

We were whipped through 700 years of history in just over half an hour. The 17th-century uprisings were represented by engraving of Catholics chopping off Protestants' arms and legs and roasting children on spits. We had the Cromwell era (ruined castles) the potato-famine (ruined hovels); the 18th-century influx of Protestant land owners (helicopter-shots of country estates).

And then there were the talking beads. The trouble with some of the beads, though, was that they could not really talk. Speaking about the potato-famine, one old man said, "And I've heard of the dead that was green around the mouth because they were living on what they could find in the ditches." This was a mistake. The old man did not really believe the Irish were the undead. But you got the feeling that the film-makers did.

## PROMS

## Swirling tempest

BBCPO/Klee  
Albert Hall/Radio 3

For much of this performance of Mahler's Sixth Symphony, your critic was wondering why, when younger, he used to make such a fuss about the work. Was it because it tends to affect younger people more acutely (they usually hold death in greater awe than older people), or could it be put down to the qualities of this particular reading?

Certainly, infelicities of one kind or another abounded. The hard-worked first trumpeter of the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra split just too many crucial notes, the blooming string sound we heard this orchestra produce a fortnight ago had faded, and elsewhere there were problems of blend. There were also interpretative question marks. The slow movement (placed third) was too fast, its phrasing often inelegant, so that it contained no sense of warm repose. Moreover, neither the onward march of Fate in the opening movement nor the sardonic Scherzo seemed to be given with enough sheer determination. Yet the Finale swept aside all misgivings. Bernhard Klee encouraged highly charged playing, bringing out the music's full terror. There were still rough edges, but they meant nothing in the context of such a swirling, tormenting tempest.

Earlier the soprano Eilene Hannan and the boys of the Finchley Children's Music Group joined the orchestra for Berg's Three Fragments from "Wozzeck". Hannan was marvellously expressive, and Klee's shaping of these three "trillers" sure, though again a certain poise was missing.

No such problems beset the late-night concert by Musica Antiqua Köln at St Paul's, Knightsbridge. This sequence of level-headed, innocent music for four violins provided the perfect corrective for what had gone before. Telemann's resourcefulness (in two concertos without continuo), Leonardo Leo's elegant virtuoso writing (in an exuberant Concerto in D), and the Frenchman Jacques Aubert's early 18th-century Italian manner were all conveyed with sound techniques. Those things which have counted for little, however, without these artists' sheer instinct for performance.

Stephen Pettitt

## Bros, Britain's favourite pop group, play Wembley Stadium tomorrow. David Toop asks whether this sets the seal on their success or marks the beginning of an inevitable decline

The first Bros statement to the world, via their initial hit single, was a question: "When will I be famous?" The answer to that is probably dependent upon the number of stony-eyed young ladies ("Broselles" to the trade) they can attract to Wembley Stadium tomorrow. If, as a spate of gloating reports suggests, they are playing to banks of empty seats, then the fame will have lasted from around November 1987 until the end of next week. By then, the critics will have torn the last morsel from the corpse. Life as it was before Bros will have resumed.

Bros are the pop group that non-Broses love to hate. The taunting, invective, along with the gossip, has been gleefully heaped upon Matt and Luke, the 20-year-old Goss twins. "Aryan robots" is among the more flattering descriptions. But the images they create for themselves, it must be said, only encourage such spitefulness.

The posters advertising their Wembley concert show a glowering pair of virtually identical young men, faces toasted to an improbable tan by photographic under-exposure. They could be sun-burn victims waiting for the doctor, a new breed of cloned seaside gigolos, or celebrities fallen prey to a career-related disease caused by the flash-bulbs of paparazzi cameras.

The sleeve of their latest single was similarly unsettling in its fleshy intensity, suffused with pink, blond and tan. "Too Much", followed a similar sales pattern to their five previous British singles. Straight into the Top 10 it shot,

like a comet, and then, just as quickly, it tumbled back to again.

In the midst of their rehearsals for Wembley, Luke (the drummer of the duo) agrees and yet disagrees, as of course he must. "Yes, of course we were disappointed," he says. "But how can you be disappointed with six Top Five singles?" Quite easily, one might suggest, since a group which is perceived as being this famous should have some substantial sales figures to buttress the continuing soap-opera of its media profile. Bros' album, *Push*, has managed to shift an impressive 1.2 million copies in this country since March of last year, but the impression in the music business is of strenuous under-achievement and inexperience.

By asking when they would be famous, Bros assumed that fame was a foregone conclusion. Pop music's current "Mr Big", Tom Watkins, (who also manages the Pet Shop Boys) was in their corner, along with the producer and songwriter, Nicky Graham, a man who does not object to the description "Sveogali figure". When I talked to Watkins, of the aptly named Massive Management, in March last year, he rather cruelly described Nicky Graham as "almost the fourth member of the group, except he's 43 years old".

At that point, Bros were a trio. As Graham described them (in a phrase which now seems rather unfortunate), they were "school-mates who stuck together for years". Within eight months of this touching pronouncement, school-mates Matt, Luke and their friend and bass-player, Craig, had

come unstuck. "Craig no longer wanted to be in Bros and all that goes with it — the world tours, the television, the interviews. He left entirely of his own accord," says Luke, and then adds, darkly: "He was misled by outside parties. There were other influences at the time. It was a total shock."

Having interviewed Bros in the south London family home with their mother, their step-father and the two pet dogs, it came as no shock to me. Underneath their wholesome likeability, the Goss twins seemed single-minded in their ambition, but also slightly strange in their chemistry of warm childishness and a cool adulthood that had arrived too soon. They were plainly intertwined, both emotionally and in their motivation and aspirations. The look with which they displayed and offered themselves — James Dean as created by Leni Riefenstahl, has been one suggested description — was replicated in each other. No mirror was necessary for a reflection.

This was trouble for Craig, of course, who was quiet, ordinary and brown-haired. Not really an Aryan-robot type. Significantly, he was often cropped out of photographs and posters. He simply upset the symmetry. He probably lost confidence, and the gruelling work schedule took its toll. First he became ill and then, with the ultimate gesture of contemporary estrangement, he communicated with the Goss twins by means of solicitors' letters.

Remember that early Bros single called "Drop The Boy", writ-



Cloned seaside gigolos? Matt and Luke Goss, twin brothers from south London, are now the whole of Bros

ten about the discomfort of finding some degree of maturity as a teenager, yet still being thought of as a child? "It was slightly written about Craig," said singer Matt, speaking last March. Now the boy is dropped.

The well-publicized growing pains of the twins are ridiculed by their detractors, yet why would anybody begrudge them success? The (serious) rock faction has always under-valued pop groups and the predominantly female teenagers who are their fans. Bros have made enemies by reviving

teen mania, but teen mania is an elemental ingredient in pop. For this, if nothing else, Bros deserve their fame.

● Bros appear at Wembley Stadium tomorrow, with Debbie Gibson and Inner City also on the bill. A review will appear on this page on Monday.

## False notes, uncertainty and freaks



## THEATRE

Schism in England  
St Bride's CentreLa Nit  
Lyceum

Spanish Golden Age drama, hitherto viewed by British spectators as a large unmappped area possibly infested with dragons, has lately undergone some overdue exploration by the National Theatre, and by the indefatigable translator-playwright John Clifford, who ooz join forces in the opening shot of Edinburgh's massed salute to the Golden Age.

As a Spanish counterpart to Shakespeare's *Henry VIII*, Calderón's *Schism in England* ought to be a fascinating event. We are all too used to seeing what Jacobean playwrights made of the Italian and Spanish courts: what did the Spanish make of us? The contrast, judging from Clifford's version, is rather humbling. Far from the British practice of projecting our own homicidal and lascivious fantasies on to the defenceless foreigner, Calderón treats the English monarch and most of his court with grave respect. His Wolsey is remarkably close to Shakespeare's, as an upstart butcher's son who regains his soul when he has been stripped of his power. The only outright villain is Anne Boleyn, who lies, betrays, and murders her way to the throne, and even ditches the indispensable Wolsey, finding it "tedious to be grateful to a



Geoffrey Bateman (Henry VIII) and Miranda Foster (Anne Boleyn)

repulsive little man who happened to give you a bit of help".

Calderón composed the piece at a time (1627) when Spain was trying to improve relations with Britain; but its essential argument is religious, not political, written in sorrow at the defection of a virtuous monarch from the true Church. The Epilogue marks Henry down as "learned and foolish", and Wolsey is speaking for the author when he describes his master as "a man who can be persuaded to follow his desires, irrespective of his best interests". What this leaves out is the fact that his folly ever eclipses his intelligence.

Calderón introduces him in a Faustian scene, as a devout scholar penning anti-Lutheran tracts, attended by an evil spirit in the likeness of Anne who threatens to blot out every line he writes.

Thereafter he slithers into impiety with his eyes wide open, accepting public rebuke from the court Fool, Pasquin, and seeing through the legal sophistry Wolsey uses to justify his divorce from Catherine. If the line of argument is that of a religious polemic, the character itself is tragic.

That, alas, is not the impression it makes in John Burgess's National Theatre Studio production, a well-cast and severely designed version which fails to make any continuous contact with the play. Knowing no Spanish, I cannot question the accuracy of Clifford's translation; but its tone is all over the place — varying between loose iambs, conversational speech, and droll proverbs. The trouble is not so much the variety as the fact that none of these is presented as a deliberate stylistic choice, and the writing is generally mediocre.

Anne's discarded lover, Charles (Jeremy Flynn) delivers endless platitudinous tirades which are then blocked by one-liners from his confidant, but with no suggestion of whether or not this is meant as a satirical comment on the honour code.

Court ceremonial is periodically interrupted by the arrival of Karl Johnson's beaming Pasquin, in a silly hat, to put questions like "What's wrong with you, King?" Court Fools may enjoy complete freedom of speech, but the effect here is simply oddish.

It might have been otherwise with a commanding central performance, but Geoffrey Bateman's Henry (still uncertain of his lines) is equally lacking in royal authority, intellectual energy, and lust. The feeling he does convey is the fear that he may be unworried at any moment, expressed through an apologetically shifty demeanour, so that when he reaches his grovelling last lines, "How wrong I was", he has nowhere to climb down from.

Linda Basset succeeds in presenting the irreproachably stoic Catherine without the smallest trace of emotional blackmail; and there is a beautifully lethal Anne from Miranda Foster, who preserves the demonic quality of her first scene, particularly when spitting out venomous asides in the midst of obsequious courtesies. Otherwise, a fascinating opportunity thrown away.

Spain fares no better at the Lyceum where the Catalan troupe, Els Comedians, are offering a lumbering late-night revue backed up with an oom-pah band. On Wednesday the show went up 75 minutes late, and began with the ingenious wheeze of spreading a net over the loog-suffering stalls; someone should try this to cheer up the charter crowds at Gatwick.

After which there was much elementary clowning with soda siphons, rubber guitars, underwear, and bogey masks, in a variety of nocturnal locations from the master bedroom to the Street of Shame. They have some fancy props.

Irving Wardle

Master Peter's  
Puppet Show  
George Square Theatre

The National Youth Music Theatre has added yet another technique to its panoply of professional skills: it has taken on mime and mask-theatre and done so with the imagination and panache which characterizes its work at its best.

Manuel de Falla's puppet opera has, quite literally, come alive in a fresh and audacious reinarnation. Its puppets are the smaller children of the troupe, while its stage audience, plus Don Quixote and Sancho Panza, are those whose voices have broken and flowered, and are enjoying a final fling with the company.

Jeremy James Taylor and John Wright, directing, cunningly account the real audience to the full-size actors first by having them mingle in the stalls in robust and comical pranks before rolling on to the stage to watch the show, manage its props, even become its mountains. When the eyes are suddenly confronted with the "diminutive puppets" of the cast proper, the impression is captivating; the scale entirely credible, the movement and deftly expressive little masks (by Michael Chase) marionette-like in the extreme.

There were delighted gasps as



the macabre procession of clergy made its way into the court of Charlemagne's yelps of disbelief as the fair and minute Melisendra descended from the mountains on a tea-tray. Each vignette is played in keen-eyed counterpoint with de Falla's music: the whipping of the wicked Moor is a tour de force of physical percussion, the approach of the deluded Don Quixote to Melisendra elided deliciously with the violins' elegy.

The company has found some good voices, too: Justin Harmer's Don Quixote is a more than promising young baritone, Rob Milner's Master Peter well on his way to the musical boards. An unnamed orchestra played energetically behind the back-drop; but I am told there are grander plans for when the show comes to the South Bank next summer. It runs in Edinburgh until August 26 in tandem with *The Magistrate*.

Hilary Finch



Captivating impression: a scene from Master Peter's Puppet Show

## Breath-catching moments

## RECITAL

Montserrat Caballé  
Usher Hall

Just in case the wait for the Edinburgh Festival's visiting *zarzuela* should be proving all too much, Montserrat Caballé, at the end of her recital, gave a soak preview of Spain's unique form of comic opera. Two gurgling arias, tongue and larynx-twisting all at once, were the first of a string of encores. They rolled out, interspersed with much chatter and peals of girlish laughter which, more often than not, would become integrated in the next song. The audience was ecstatic.

But the prize was not easily won. Caballé began severely: even her navy suit and tightly swept-back hair suggested there was to be no nonsense. Vivaldi, Bellini and Mercadante exercised the voice in a series of songs in which a few breath-catching moments were



Montserrat Caballé: severe start spun among many routine diva clichés.

With the coinnivance of Miguel Zanetti's pearly, often mischievous piano playing, it was Rossini who worked the change. Suddenly the movement of a lie became one with the current of

breath, and in "Di tanti palpiti" from *Tancredi*, Caballé began to tease out vibration, rhythm and pitch with the minute control at which she still excels. Catalonia was put on the map in the second half. Granados's "Elegia eterna" found Caballé in taut, elastic, deliciously raw voice, as the mist followed the river and the breeze followed the mist in one long liquid line.

Still the tone was sombre, plaintive; and in the greater simplicity of two songs by the Barcelona-born Frederico Mompou, the words fell shyly into place as if almost surprised by the unexpected harmonic shifts below them. Only in Turina's coquettish "Tu pupila es azul" did the first real smile twitch on the lips and the hands begin to flutter with the soaring vocalise of her cries of "¡Ay!". Before this came the composer's passionate lullaby, the "Canción de cuna" and after it, applause which made earlier festival ovations seem merely dutiful.

Hilary Finch

## Scandinavian Spanish swagger and bold American enterprise

## FESTIVAL CONCERTS

Gothenburg SO/  
Järvi  
Usher HallBoston Music  
Production Company  
St Mark's Unitarian  
Church

Scandinavia's longest established orchestra offered Edinburgh a programme diplomatically balanced between the Nordic and the Hispanic. It made a fine flourish for the Swedes' Prom performances tonight and tomorrow.

*Españole* merely continted the festival's travelogue view of musical Spain and briefly introduced the orchestra's principals, but de Falla's *The Three Corners Hat* provided more substance. As it happened, I had enjoyed a witty performance of the original mime play, *The Magistrate*, two hours earlier in the George Square Theatre: the three women of *The Triple Threat Dance Company* became miller, miller's wife, magistrate, even millstream in turn, with all the quick unpredictability which the orchestra were later to relish in de Falla's score.

Järvi and his players had an extra dance or two, to add, some lusty Nordic *olé*, an army of castanets, and the distant voice of Christine Cairns, warning of forthcoming trouble in a rich, mysterious mezzo. Swagger and subtlety co-existed in an interpretation which was a masterpiece of comic and not-so-comic timing.

Cho-Liang Lin's febrile performance of Sibelius's Violin Concerto was answered by the token contemporary Swedish work: an eight-minute surge of reverberance, of minimal rhythmic and melodic interest, called *Era* by Jan Sandström.

It is certainly uphill work searching for classical music-making on the Fringe of anything like the quality of Fringe theatre. But amongst the genteel Schubertiades, the dustings-down of neglected Scots, and the jamborees of youth orchestras, I was gratified to find the Boston Music Production Company, which is playing eight imaginative and highly varied chamber programmes, using a sulky old Broadway in an over-reverberant Unitarian church. Notwithstanding that, their performances are crystalline, fleet-fingered miracles. They deserve better than an audience of four.

H.F.



## FRIDAY PAGE

# Don't drink and be a dad?

Mothers-to-be are bombarded by health advice. Is it time for daddy to consider preconceptual care? Ann Kent reports

It takes two to tango and — despite the great strides made in infertility treatment — it still takes two people to conceive a baby. Yet, while pregnant women and nursing mothers are given endless advice about what they should eat, drink and inhale, the putative father in the background — who may be knocking back a bottle of whisky, smoking 40 cigarettes and eating chips with everything — is usually overlooked.

Babies are not cloned from their mothers. They are formed by the fusion of 23 chromosomes from the sperm and 23 from the mother's egg, a truly joint venture. But while research has concentrated on the effects of the mother's lifestyle on the baby, little is known about the male influence.

Even as far as the mother is concerned, the situation is not nearly so clear-cut as the experts would have us believe. The guilt of women with less-than-normal children is likely to be increased this week by an article in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, which suggests that breast-fed babies whose mothers drink alcohol appear to show a delay in the development of physical skills, although this is so slight as to be unnoticeable in individual children.

As usual, this week's medical literature is silent about the father's role in the conception, delivery and rearing of a healthy infant. Yet there is a great deal of scientific interest in the effects of the chemicals contained in the alcohol and cigarettes used by the parents on the development of the foetus.

John Aitken, senior scientist with the Medical Research Council's Unit of Reproductive Biology says: "It is relatively easy to look for chromosomal abnormalities in the female egg, because it has its chromosomes nicely assembled on a spindle. The chromosomes in sperm are tightly compacted, making it difficult to spot abnormalities. A technique has been developed which allows unravelling of the chromosomes. A lot of us would like to do this work, and to see

the effects of alcohol, tobacco and pesticides on sperm. At the moment we don't have the funding for it."

However, the funding does exist for research into the effects of alcohol on female eggs, and researchers at Cambridge University have applied to do it. They would also like to investigate whether defective sperm are capable of fertilizing a human egg. It is believed, but not established, that they are not.

Peter Brande, a lecturer in obstetrics and gynaecology at Cambridge University who hopes to do this research, has no doubts about the adverse effects of alcohol on male fertility. "Anecdotally, I can tell you of any number of couples whose infertility was treated simply by getting the man to give up drinking. In many cases the man will think he doesn't drink much — and then tell you he has three pints every night and more at weekends."

Tim Hargrave, an expert in male infertility, from the Western General Hospital, Edinburgh, says: "Quite a few studies have looked at sperm abnormalities and smoking — with conflicting results. No one can say there is any strong evidence that smoking damages fertility, although scientifically it seems likely. We know that cigarette products are mutagenic, which means that they damage dividing cells. Sperm cells are among the fastest dividing in the body."

"Some of our own research suggests an increase in abnormal sperm among men who smoke, but there have not been any clear results from large-scale studies. We know that alcoholics with liver damage become infertile, but we can find no strong evidence about the effects of moderate consumption. Despite all this, I do suggest that infertile couples cut down on drinking, if they drink on more than four days of the week, and on smoking."

"It seems very likely that damaged sperm don't fertilize eggs, because the healthy ones are the most likely to reach the target first. However, this does not apply when techniques such as in-vitro fertilization are used in cases where the



Parental problems: it has been estimated that between 25 and 30 per cent of infertility is caused by male factors

husband has poor sperm. I am not aware of more abnormal babies being born because of this, but careful records must be kept so we can be sure this is not happening."

Peter Brinsden, medical director of Bourn Hall clinic, which pioneered IVF techniques, is more certain about the adverse effects of drinking and smoking.

He says: "If men have poor sperm counts, I suggest they give up drinking altogether. If the woman has ovulation problems, and takes more than one drink a day, I suggest she gives up as well. I am also quite keen on male weight reduction. Between 25 and 30 per cent of infertility is caused by male factors."

But how much of the advice given to women is valid? Despite scare stories about the effects of foetal alcohol syndrome, it seems to be tobacco rather than alcohol which causes most of the trouble. Research

carried out at St George's Hospital, London, showed that smoking was much more important than alcohol, caffeine, poverty and stress in leading to the birth of underweight babies. Low birth weight is important because it suggests that the foetus has been deprived of nutrients while in the womb. Alcohol only had a significant effect when the mother smoked as well and, in this case, this was greater than the effect on mothers who smoked but did not drink.

According to the Royal College of Physicians' report on alcohol, there is no conclusive evidence that alcohol ingestion of less than 10 units a week (that is, 10 glasses of wine, or five pints of beer, or 10 single spirits) during pregnancy affects the welfare of the foetus. The report advises women to restrict themselves to an occasional drink, at least in the early stages of pregnancy. However, the effects of two to three alcoholic drinks a day, or the occasional binge, are still not clear.

Nick Wald, professor of environmental and preventive medicine at Bart's Hospital, says: "A lot of the science relating to what pregnant women should and shouldn't do is very shaky indeed. A great deal of lip service is paid to the value of a good, balanced diet. However, there is no evidence to suggest that harm is caused, provided women get enough calories to avoid malnutrition."

"No one disputes the fact that heavy drinking of alcohol is harmful, but the effect of moderate drinking is a very grey area indeed. I am convinced by the evidence on smoking. If a couple want to have a healthy baby, they should give up smoking as a team."

Recent research on passive smoking in children suggests that both mother and father must give up cigarettes for good. Children whose parents smoke are more likely to suffer respiratory illnesses than those brought up in non-smoking households.

## TALKBACK

## The loss of a child

From Mrs Patricia Eastwell, Darlington, Co. Durham

I am astonished at the immoderate and ill-considered response of some correspondents who objected to Neil Lyndon's expression of regret for his dead unborn children ("Rights and wrongs of man", Monday Page, August 7) — a sentiment which would be received sympathetically from the pen of a woman. The assumption behind one of the letters seems to be that abortion can be justified if the child's future environment may be less than perfect, or if his existence may hinder the smooth unfolding of his mother's career and prevent her becoming "equal to men in the work-place" — what a dismayingly bleak approach.

Those who counsel and care for women in the distress which so often follows abortion know how severe, prolonged and disabling this distress can be: it is not surprising that men share it to some extent, and it is right that it should be expressed. Is it not precisely for their alleged deficiency in the "superior feminine virtues of feeling and caring that men are routinely castigated by feminist orthodoxy?"

Neil Lyndon would rightly have been expected to help support his children had they been born, and he was willing to do so, and to act in all respects as a father to them. He is right to resent the fact that he was not consulted about their lives or deaths.

From Mary Cole, Gasing Lane, West Wellow, Hampshire

Having read the unanimous criticism of him, I am writing to say that I find Neil Lyndon's column poignant, funny, and thought-provoking in general. His contribution on August 7 was no exception. It seems only reasonable and natural to mourn one's lost children, especially if you cannot produce live born ones in later years.

Why shouldn't Mr Lyndon regret the loss of siblings for his only child? Why may he not wonder what those two would have been like?

An unwanted conception does not necessarily lead to an unhappy or unloved child. Many women regret their aborted foetuses. Surely a man

should be allowed to express similar emotions?

From E. Hughes, Gunnersbury Avenue, London W3

The loss and pain Neil Lyndon feels all these years on is probably nothing to what each one of the several women he made pregnant feels to this day. Nor the tragedy of women forced to have their child adopted, and not knowing anything of them.

I know because I had an abortion. It was forced on us by the times and attitudes we lived under. Today we would have had more of a choice but even so the emotional and financial realities of bringing up a child alone are harsh.

He has only the women's word for it that they had abortions: for all he knows his progeny may be some of them may be alive and have overwhelming regret wondering who their biological father is, and may never have the means to know.

At least Neil Lyndon's article awakens others to the time bomb of loss and, one hopes, will make them more careful in future.

From Virginia Goulding, Holly Road, Birmingham

Neil Lyndon's piece on fatherhood is the best argument against abortion heard in a long while. Of course, family life without a father is hardly a family. So why not give father a say in the survival of the family?

From Pamela Woodward, Honeyuckle Lane, High Salvington, Worthing, Sussex

As one who is the other side of 40 and had my children before it was fashionable to have a career first, I read Liz Gill's article "Born in the cradle of style" (Monday, August 7) with some amusement.

I feel as the writer — alarm at the baby-as-new-special-project approach. Hm, I wonder, will these women who at 40-plus embark on motherhood cope with adolescents when they are approaching 60? Perhaps by then an enterprising one of their number will have written a directory advising them of all the pitfalls. I wish them all luck and perhaps I am just being cynical.

### WORLD AFFAIRS

News and views on environmental issues

## Now it's friendly nappies

Even if a plan to increase tax on "environmentally unfriendly" products goes ahead, it seems unlikely that all Western mothers will be inspired to drop disposable nappies ("unsound" largely because they are the product of trees) in favour of the old-fashioned kind.

So as babies in Britain get through 2,600 million nappies a year, efforts to make disposables more environmentally sympathetic are crucial. At the end of this month, Peapod introduces its biodegradable nappy, featuring 100 per cent non-chlorine bleached pulp and a plastic backing, which (after some years) is claimed, breaks down fully in the soil. But, the manufacturers insist, "they don't break down on the baby". Meanwhile, Procter & Gamble, which makes Pampers, is joining the race for a planet-friendly nappy, making use of recycled plastic from industrial sources, which will biodegrade. It has also announced an initiative to recycle soiled nappies and experiment with turning them into flowerpots and other plastic and cardboard goods. "But we're still working out how to collect the used nappies," a P&G spokesman admits. Not an enviable task.

### Phone-a-green

Revelations about pesticide residues in everyday foods have not only worried consumers; they have also caused frustration. To fill a shopping basket can entail visits to several health food shops and supermarkets, as demand frequently outstrips supply. A nation-wide survey revealed yesterday that food scares are encouraging people to buy organic produce but in some areas it is very difficult to find. Having made an "exhausting" nation-wide search for suppl-



Nature's way: animal wallpapers with a charity contribution

ers of organically produced fruit, vegetables, cheeses and dried goods for her own two children, businesswoman Antonia Kirby has started a weekly service, Au Naturel, delivering fresh certified organic provender (plus recycled lavatory paper and so on) to Londoners' front doors. "I got fed up with finding supermarket shelves bare of all but a few organic courgettes because someone else had got there first," she says. Orders are placed by telephone on 01-373 2515. Au Naturel will also collect newspapers and bottles to be recycled.

### Foam off menu

The resource and land-rich United States may only slowly be waking up to the imperilled environment, but individuals are already beginning to stick their necks out to bring about change. When a 15-year-old New Jersey schoolgirl, Tanja Vogt, discovered that manufacture of the polystyrene foam food trays used in her school cafeteria helped to deplete the ozone layer, she launched a current events project — encouraged by her professor, Karl Stehle — polling students about whether they would prefer lunch on a foam tray for \$1.20, or on a paper tray for \$1.25. By the end of that week more than three-quarters of the school's students were paying the extra nickel. Stehle draws parallels between the apparent dawning of a new eco-consciousness

among the youth of the United States and that country's revolution. "What we face here with the environment was what they faced in the revolution. It was a core that believed they could make a change. It's individuals who make a difference."

### Moral shopping

If you are going to buy a can of pet food, a pair of running shoes or a box of chocolates next month, September's issue of *The Ethical Consumer* could add a new dimension to your shopping expedition. Tagged "the alternative Whizz", this magazine looks beyond glossy packaging to produce an independent corporate critique of manufacturers and retailers, charting trading links with South Africa or oppressive regimes, and revealing whether they pay fair wages, respect animal rights and — most topically — are environmentally sound. As the editor, Jane Turner, explains, "it is 'good for the environment' to use lead-free petrol, it might be even better to use lead-free and buy it from the company with the best environmental record". With six issues a year, *The Ethical Consumer* is available by individual subscription, price £9, from ECRA Publishing, 100 Gtney Walk, Moss Side, Manchester M15 5ND. How to explain to the dog that his favourite brand of chow is morally indigestible, however, is another matter.

### Eco-wallpaper

How green can a non-recycled, vinyl-coated wallpaper be? Well, at least slightly green, if a royalty on sales is paid to the Conservation Foundation, to help with national and international environmental projects. Six sophisticated new wallpapers in a range called Wild Life, by Rich and Smith, plunder nature for inspiration: designs using cheetahs, zebras, monkeys, butterflies, pandas and suitably rain forest-esque birds of paradise all sell for between £15 and £9.50 a roll, with co-ordinating cotton fabrics at £17.25 per metre and striking borders at £14.95 a roll. For stockists contact Rich and Smith, North Street Farm, Stoke sub Hamdon, Somerset TA14 6QR (0935 824696). The Conservation Foundation, whose global umbrella encompasses projects from the rain forests to Britain's coastline and countryside, can be found at 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR (01-823 8842).

### Nature's words

As a nation, we have destroyed half our native woodland since the war. Yet individually, "trees are important landmarks in our lives — that's why people were so upset by the hurricane," says Sue Clifford, of Common Ground, the environmental and arts charity. Common Ground has launched a limited edition magazine entitled *Pulp*, with 44 large-scale pages featuring musings and illustrations from (among others) Ben Elton, Heathcote Williams, Calman and Germaine Greer, celebrating nature's own air-conditioners.

*Pulp*, made from recycled paper, naturally, costs £2.50 from Dillons or £3.50 by post from 45 Shelton Street, London WC2H 9JH. It is part of Common Ground's programme of events and publications intended to nurture a wider appreciation of nature. As entertaining for the armchair conservationist as for the wellie brigade, *Pulp* is assembled with the graphic panache that recently earned the charity a £25,000 award from Prudential Assurance. Profits from the magazine are pumped back into the charity, although, Clifford says, "Further donations are always needed. Alas, money doesn't grow on trees..."

Josephine Fairley

SEPTEMBER 1989 £2.10

# New Woman

IN LOVE OR INSANE? How the hell can you tell

THIGH HOPES Are creams just dreams or do they work?

CHRISTINA ONASSIS Too much money too little love

Would you buy what JOAN COLLINS JEFFREY ARCHER DAVID BAILEY are trying to sell?

WOMEN ON TRIAL What does "asking for it" mean exactly?

BRAIN POWER The thinking woman's diet

INFERTILITY The (high) price women will pay for a child

Brilliant short fiction: "GODDING" more powerful than sex

The magazine with your name on it

## OUT NOW



**TODAY**

•















## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## OFT finds no reason for De Beers inquiry

De Beers, the world-wide diamond group, has been told by the Office of Fair Trading that there is no reason for its diamond selling activities to be investigated by the OFT. Sir Gordon Borrie, the OFT's director general, says while aspects of the Central Selling Organisation, the De Beers marketing arm, function like a monopoly, any ill effects which might flow will be negligible for Britain.

"Since I have jurisdiction only over the state of competition within the United Kingdom, I see little point, on the basis of the information available to me at present, in pursuing this matter further," Sir Gordon adds.

## Quotient in £1.98m loss

Quotient, the USM financial computer software group which in June issued a warning to shareholders of an impending downturn in profits, yesterday blamed a sluggish and uncertain market for a pre-tax loss of £1.98 million in the six months to end-June, compared with a pre-tax profit of £517,000 last time. There is no interim dividend (1.4p).

## Offer for Invicta fails

The tender offer for 10 per cent of Invicta Somd, the local radio group based in Canterbury, has met expected failure, with acceptances for less than 1 per cent of the share capital. Under the offer terms, it is now void. It was launched by Mr Kenneth Prichard Jones, who has stakes in two other local stations. Shares fell 7p to 20p.

## Gaskell edges ahead

Gaskell, the carpet and underlay manufacturer, overcame slower high street sales in the six months to end-June, with pre-tax profits up 1 per cent to £1.03 million. Sales rose by 29 per cent to £19.0 million, while the interim dividend is lifted from 2.5p to 2.8p.

The results were held back by a sharply higher interest charge, up £209,000 to £261,000, due to last year's installation of a bitumen backing line at Bamber Crafts, a contract tufted carpet tile manufacturing subsidiary. The backing line has now started to contribute. Gaskell said demand from contract and industrial customers remained high and it hoped to gain the benefits from the new equipment and the new warehouse at Gaskell Carpets in the second half.

## Blagden rises 25% to £5.8m

Pre-tax profits at Blagden Industries, the steel drum manufacturer, rose 25 per cent to £5.8 million in the six months to June 25. Earnings per share were up 0.1p to 9.1p, and the interim dividend climbs 8 per cent to 4.2p (3.9p). Though Blagden reported a £76,000 loss at Femsa, all other divisions performed well.

## Citygrove in £13m scheme

Citygrove, the property developer, is beginning construction of a £13 million retail park in Edinburgh this month. The scheme, which is fully let, will provide 160,000 sq ft to non-food retailing and a 10,000 sq ft garden centre. Completion is scheduled for summer 1990, with rent levels varying between £6.50 and £6.75 a sq ft.

## Henriques doubles

Associated Henriques, the trade finance house, contained its recent growth and almost doubled pre-tax profits to £1.28 million for the six months to end-June, on a turnover of £2.4 million, up from £1.02 million. The company is raising the interim dividend a third, to 1p.

Mr Milton Levine, the chairman, said many small British companies were still badly in need of the financing Henriques offers, and the company's client list had grown from 60 to more than 100 in the past year. He said Henriques was unaffected by higher interest rates, as it always lent at a fixed level above its borrowing costs. Henriques' Canadian subsidiary, founded in May last year, turned in good profits. The company said demand was still good in the second half, although the rate of profit growth was beginning to slow.

## Storm warning helps shelter Royal

Having issued a warning to City analysts that things were not going too well, Royal Insurance has beaten their pessimistic forecasts with a 22 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £120 million, sending its shares up 11p to 444p. Things would have been much better had it not been for a £14 million trading loss on the £220 million Royal has invested in its estate agencies.

The problem, as expected, was in the United States, where the downturn in the insurance cycle turned a £29 million pre-interest profit on general insurance in the first half of 1988 into a £25 million loss this time, on £678 million of premiums.

But it could have been worse for Mr Ian Rushton, group chief executive. More cautious provisioning and a rundown in certain Californian business can be expected to limit losses. Second-quarter losses were down on the first and growth of premium income was kept to 4.5 per cent. There may be some improvement next year.

In Britain, however, profits from a similar premium income leapt 56 per cent to £94 million, thanks mainly to the mild winter. Canada and the rest of the world also produced record profits. The life side slipped in an improved £25 million despite lower single premium business in Britain, including £4.5 million from the US, where the Maccabees Life acquisition has shifted the geographical balance.

Pre-tax profits for the full year could top £250 million, which would leave the shares selling at about 13 times earnings. That could be extravagant because Britain's underwriting cycle is likely to turn down next year, even if the good weather persists.

Royal's main attraction is as an income stock. The half-time dividend is up 13.2 per cent to 10.75p, suggesting at least 25p for the full year. That would give a yield of 7.5 per cent. The other appeal lies in net assets of 519p (up from 441p a year ago with no half-time adjustment for the life surplus). This is no doubt what attracted Adelaide Steamship, which still has its stake in Royal.

New management is exploring ways of releasing shareholder value. But the underwriting cycle is a severe limiting factor.

## European

## Home Products

When European Home Products arrived on the market in 1986, many thought that the £49 million price-tag was a bit steep for a retailer of sewing machines with an indifferent record.

The shares opened at a discount, but the company redeemed its position by spending well above £100 million on acquisitions in the following year.

The results for the first half



Forecasts beaten: Ian Rushton of Royal Insurance yesterday

of 1989, which were slightly worse than the company had warned in May, show just how difficult it can be to buy growth.

Obviously, pre-tax profits were 37 per cent up at £17.1 million in the six months to June, but this included an exceptional gain of £10.4 million from the sale of Scholl's head offices and warehouses in Britain and Germany.

Ignoring that one-off gain, the figures showed a 56 per cent fall to £6.7 million. Trading profits, virtually all of which were chipped in by Scholl footwear products, fell by £3.4 million to £11.9 million, while the interest charge practically doubled between the first and second halves of the year has never been predictable. This time is no exception: pre-tax profits for the six months to end-June are 21 per cent ahead at £1.13 million, on sales of £18.2 million, up a third. The

deferred from huying by the level of interest rates.

Unsold consumer durables piled up in its shops in Spain and Italy, which inflated borrowings and led to a £1.9 million provision against stocks.

True, EHP attained its leading position in the electrical goods markets of southern Europe cheaply. But it is now all too apparent why these bargain opportunities to move into Spain were not snapped up by others.

The shares fell 12p to 178p on the results, but with analysts such as Mr Charles Allen of County NatWest cutting forecasts of full-year pre-tax profits to £13 million and earnings to £11.3p, that still leaves them on a rating in the mid-tens. There will be no rush to buy.

## Microvitec

Microvitec's figures in the five years since it came to the market could charitably be described as lumpy. Profits and sales at the computer colour monitor manufacturer have risen and fallen as large contracts have come and gone.

At least the trend has been upwards since the disastrous decline in 1985, but the split between the first and second halves of the year has never been predictable. This time is no exception: pre-tax profits for the six months to end-June are 21 per cent ahead at £1.13 million, on sales of £18.2 million, up a third. The

What the company needs is a stable contract from a large original equipment manufacturer. The perfect customer would be a large Japanese or American group wanting to increase its European sourcing as 1992 approaches. Microvitec is one of Europe's leading monitor manufacturers, with a well-built product and the flexibility to build to meet a customer's needs. If Microvitec won a contract from Apple, NEC or even IBM, its profits would start to motor.

Until then, the company seems fated with its low rating, although a running yield of 5.7 per cent may tempt some investors to take the chance.

## French group in talks with Philips

(Reuters) - Thomson SA, France's state-owned electronics group, is in talks with Philips of Holland, the big electronics group, about the future of Philips' defence business. The dealings in the shares of Télécommunications Radiodélectriques et Téléphoniques (TRT), Philips' French unit, were suspended on the Paris bourse at Fr1.405 (£136) yesterday, matching the previous day's close.

TRT is 49.2 per cent owned by Philips. Thomson said: "Discussions are underway between Philips and Thomson over the future of Philips' defence business and TRT's defence business in France."

A Philips spokesman in France confirmed that discussions were under way over TRT, but declined comment on Philips' other defence activities. Talks had earlier

taken place between the groups about Philips' Hollandse Signaal Apparaten offshoot.

The shares of Thomson CSF, Thomson's defence electronics offshoot, rose by Fr3.90 to Fr208.60 (£20.14) after the news of the talks.

TRT reported attributable group losses of Fr47.4 million (£4.57 million) in 1988 on a turnover of Fr4.16 billion, falling into the red after achieving a profit for 1987 of Fr60.8 million (£5.87 million) on a turnover of 4.02 billion.

In 1988, about 40 per cent of sales were in the military sector.

TRT's businesses include specialist electronic and optical systems for aircraft and weapons. Analysts attributed most of TRT's losses last year to restructuring costs and export problems.

## British Gas hits at pay policy criticism as managers win 16% rise

By David Young  
Energy Correspondent

British Gas has defended its pay policy, which this year gave senior management a 16 per cent pay rise while profits rose by only 6 per cent.

Mr Robert Evans, the new chairman and chief executive of British Gas, whose own earnings will not be made public until next year's accounts are released, told shareholders in Birmingham yesterday: "I don't think I'm overpaid."

He said he now runs the sixth largest company in Britain but his pay was less than that of the chief of the 53rd largest company in Britain.

Mr Evans said at the annual meeting, attended by 5,000 of its 2½ million shareholders, that British Gas paid its senior executives salaries based on the middle range of engineering earnings.

He said that staff whose pay was negotiated by trade unions were in the upper quartile of earnings in the same sector. Last year, manual staff had received a 5 per cent pay rise plus a 4.5 per cent annual bonus.

The size of increases paid to senior staff was criticized by Mr Noel Falconer, a shareholder, who yesterday again failed to win support from his fellow investors to be nominated to the board.

Mr Falconer said he had considerable managerial experience, 20 years' service in the RAF, two degrees and the experience needed to combat big company bureaucracy.

He said: "I prefer to say that I am a small shareholder in British Gas much like all the other 2½ million shareholders who own less than 1,000 shares each. I believe we should have one of our own



'I don't think I'm overpaid': Robert Evans of British Gas

on the board. This is not fractional; it is so that they know how we think. I can go on that board and I think that I can help."

Mr Falconer clearly did not receive the support of fellow shareholders on a show of hands but Mr Evans decided the matter should be put to a special poll. The result will be announced today.

Mr Evans also told shareholders that British Gas was about to compete for the new markets for gas emerging among the electricity generators.

"We are not afraid of competition. We have always had to compete with electricity, oil and coal. Gas competition is

likely to be limited until the early 1990s but much of it will take place in gas-fired power generation stimulated by the privatization of electricity."

The AGM coincided with the publication of an independent survey, conducted by Survey Research Associates, showing that more than 80 per cent of small British Gas shareholders were satisfied with the company's attitude towards them.

Asked to give their opinion of the company's performance, 56 per cent rated it as good or excellent, and 25 per cent as satisfactory. Only 5 per cent rated it as poor.

## Three fail to join AFI board

By Neil Bennett

Amalgamated Financial Investments has beaten off attempts by three dissident shareholders to join the board.

At an extraordinary meeting yesterday, the company declared that three motions tabled by the shareholders who include Mr Richard Wollenberg, a former chief executive of the company, were invalid.

The motions, which called for the election of each of the

three to the board, were declared ineligible because they had not filed proper documents with the company secretary six days before the meeting.

A fourth motion, which called for the removal of Mr Frank Welsh, an AFI director and its former chairman, was called off after Mr Welsh resigned from the company early yesterday morning.

The three shareholders had

earlier criticized AFI for a series of deals it made last year which they believed had been damaging.

Mr John Scholes, AFI's chairman, said: "Mr Wollenberg goofed, quite frankly. He used to be a director of this company so he should have known what the articles of association said. Now I just want to get ahead and enhance the value of the company's shares."

## Growth fuelled by steady demand from Japan, US and Europe

## Wool exports poised for record year

By Melinda Wittstock

Exports of wool textiles from Britain, aided by a stronger dollar and steady demand for woollen and worsted fabrics in both Japan and the EC, look likely to reach record levels again this year.

Half-year figures from the National Wool Textile Export Corporation yesterday revealed that the value of wool textile exports throughout the world has risen by 14 per cent on the same period last year to £355.8 million.

Though the rate of growth seen earlier in the year is now slowing, Mr Geoffrey Richardson, director of the NWTEC, said the industry could notch up about £700 million worth of overseas sales for 1989 as a whole - easily beating last

year's £613 million and compensating somewhat for a rather lacklustre performance in the domestic market.

He said the 14 per cent rise represented "a pleasant progression" of growth the industry had seen over the past five years, and "not a flash in the pan."

Since the recession of the early 1980s, the industry - still concentrated in the old mill towns dotted throughout Yorkshire and the Scottish Borders - has transformed both its equipment and product.

Exporters now rely on more expensive products which sell better in North America, Japan and Europe. High quality worsted cloth, for instance, has

become very popular with Japanese businessmen, say analysts.

The NWTEC's statistics for June, the latest monthly figures available, show a 15.3 per cent rise in wool textile exports over June last year to £64.9 million.

In the first six months of the year, wool cloth exports increased in value by 12.2 per cent to £140.5 million, while yarn exports at £52.3 million fell 0.4 per cent.

Raw wool exports remained the same at £44.9 million. Exports of other wool textile products increased 31.7 per cent to £15.2 million.

Exports of wool textiles to EC countries grew 2.1 per cent to £93.8 million, while sales to the rest of the world rose 20.3 per cent to £153.9 million.



Royal Insurance

## INTERIM RESULTS

- Pre-tax profit £119.6m.
- Interim dividend up 13.2% to 10.75p per share.
- Premium income up 21.2% to £2,394.4m.
- Capital and reserves up 18.1% to £2,520m.
- Net assets per share up from 441p to 519p.
- The pre-tax profit of £119.6m, whilst down on the comparable figure of £154.0m last year, contained a number of strong features. Record pre-tax profits were achieved by all the general insurance companies with the exception of Royal USA. Following the acquisition of Maccabees Life in the United States we are obtaining the benefits of a wider geographical distribution of our life business with 51.5% of long-term premiums emanating from outside the UK.



Royal Insurance

A full statement for the interim results for 1989 (of which the above is an extract) will be mailed to all shareholders, and is also available from Corporate Relations, Royal Insurance Holdings plc, 1 Cornhill, London EC3V 3QR. Please send me a copy of Royal Insurance's interim statement.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE: \_\_\_\_\_

TEL: \_\_\_\_\_



Gillian Bowditch profiles Ian Posgate and Kenneth Grob

# The high life and risk-taking times of Lloyd's 'Goldfinger'

Ian Richard Posgate, aged 57 — nicknamed "Goldfinger" — on account of his ability to make millions for his Lloyd's names and himself — was one of the few superstars in the secretive Lloyd's insurance market.

His style, acid humour and ability to take huge risks with apparent ease ensured that he stood out in an establishment populated by men in grey suits.

Even those in Lloyd's who cared nothing for his style secretly admired his ability to make money. He is said to have had the highest earned income in Britain in the early 1980s — in 1981 he drew more than £700,000 in commission alone.

Despite being known as Goldfinger, Mr Posgate was more of a James Bond of the financial world — until his arrest in 1987 in connection with the Alexander Howden affair.

He positively sought out dangerous business which his competitors shunned because of the possibility of heavy losses, finding financial opportunity in war, hijacking and catastrophe. In 1980 his life was insured for £10 million.

Married to Margaret, by whom he has four children, he is a self-made man with a great deal of charm. He was seen



On top of the world: underwriting superstar Ian Posgate at his home in Henley-on-Thames during the good days of 1982

socially with a variety of glittering escorts, including Miss Sally Hunter, a Belgravia art expert, and Mrs Laura Davies, a Lloyd's member.

His lifestyle was opulent. His magnificent mansion in Henley-on-Thames included six acres of garden and a 150-acre beef farm. In 1978 he was

given a Picasso by Kenneth Grob's son David, an art dealer. Mr Posgate later described the painting as "not that good, not that expensive."

Mr Posgate's aggressive underwriting methods earned him enemies among his competitors at Lloyd's. He

showed little team spirit, preferring to strike out and take risks on his own.

But in 1981 his popularity was such that he was elected to the Committee of Lloyd's, the highest honour his peers could bestow on him.

Despite being revered by the names who flocked to

share the Goldfinger touch, Mr Posgate has been in trouble at Lloyd's and considered himself an outsider.

Severely censured by the Committee of Lloyd's in 1970 — which in most cases would have meant commercial death — he remained bitter about the incident.

## 'Grobfather' with a stubborn streak

The irony of the often-uneasy relationship between Mr Kenneth Grob and Mr Ian Posgate is that they were brought together by the Lloyd's Committee.

Despite heavily censuring Mr Posgate, the committee allowed him to continue as an active underwriter on condition that he was overseen by an underwriting agency approved of by the committee. That underwriting agency was Alexander Howden and Mr Grob effectively became Mr Posgate's "ruler."

Howden undoubtedly benefited from its relationship with Mr Posgate, who continued to enjoy phenomenal success. It is estimated that by 1982 Mr Posgate was personally writing more than 7 per cent of all the insurance premium written at Lloyd's. In return he was paid a salary which kept him in the headlines for much of the late 1970s — in 1979 he

paid £2,000 a week in tax.

Mr Grob, aged 68, is a man of enormous entrepreneurial ability who has a taste for the finer things in life. He worked his way up from a junior broker at the age of 16, speculating in stocks, shares and art along the way. He is half Swiss, is married with two children and was a RAF pilot during the Second World War.

He was appointed chairman of Alexander Howden in 1970 and in addition to an elegant London address — Eaton Square, Belgravia — he enjoyed the benefits of the Villa Oliva, a large pink residence in an exclusive part of the South of France, until the Howden scandal blew up in 1982.

He sat on the board of his son, David's, art company and had a taste for fine paintings.

Despite his outward urbanity, Mr Grob had a stubborn streak. Mr

Posgate has called him a "bully" on more than one occasion, and it is not for nothing that his nickname in the Lloyd's market was "The Grobfather." Between 1969 and 1977 Mr Grob expanded Howden by around 40 per cent a year by means of an aggressive acquisition policy, but 20 per cent of its income still came directly from Mr Posgate's underwriting.

In 1977 Mr Posgate was appointed to the full board of Howden. Howden had asked Lloyd's for permission to appoint him to the board in 1974, but it had refused.

Mr Grob showered gifts and loans on Mr Posgate. Geoffrey Hodgson, in his book *Lloyd's of London, A Reputation at Risk*, says that in addition to being given a work by Picasso Mr Posgate was lent pieces by Rodin, Henry Moore, Picasso, Monet and Fautou-Latour. During his trial,

Mr Posgate revealed that he wanted to usurp Mr Grob. Mr Posgate told the court: "It was an ambition of mine — like all politicians wish to become prime minister — to become chairman or deputy chairman of Howden."

The two fell out over the Lloyd's Bill in 1981. Mr Posgate had argued to the Parliamentary Committee that brokers should not be allowed in own underwriting syndicates.

This infuriated Mr Grob, who was violently opposed to the idea. But Mr Posgate was interested in acquiring the hugely successful underwriting agencies which he had built up at Howden, and which accounted for a fifth of Howden's profits.

By 1982 the relationship had soured, to the extent that Mr Posgate claimed he was not included in the Howden takeover negotiations with Alexander & Alexander, the US firm, and he left the Howden board.

## COMMENT

### Sparks begin to fly in the Plessey end game

Predictably, Lord Weinstock's General Electric and West Germany's Siemens go on the attack against Plessey in their offer document by questioning the underlying profitability of the embattled electronics group. Less predictably, Plessey has shown a new strand to its defence. It has started building a stake in Ferranti, the defunct electronics company.

Plessey can hardly mount a takeover within the time constraints of the GEC Siemens bid. Takeover expectations for Ferranti anyway have been that nobody would move against Ferranti until it was known for certain that it will get the big radar contract expected to be placed by the autumn.

So there are now two issues on Plessey. Can it, through stake-building in Ferranti, help to find an escape route from GEC and Siemens? And how far, when it produces its defence document, will it be able to successfully counter the twin predators' arguments on its profitability?

Key institutional shareholders will want to see more from Plessey than just one or two-year golden promises. Perhaps the glitter will need to be shown to have a four to five-year life. This could prove a challenge for Plessey.

That underlines the importance of finding another means of defence. The possibility of an alliance with Ferranti, possibly strengthened by taking in another partner, would demonstrate to the institutions that GEC-Siemens-Plessey is only one possible scenario for their parts of the electronics industry.

At any rate, Plessey is now putting some sparks into the end game.

### Lawson's light relief

The fall in earnings growth in June is almost certainly a false dawn, but it promises a shorter and less intense period of darkness than many were expecting.

The official earnings figures are a backward-looking indicator. Since the settlements recorded in the June figure there have been some considerably higher pay increases, for instance at ICI and among the local authority non-manual workers, and as the months go by these higher figures will loom progressively larger in average earnings. There was also a particular reason for the downward move from 9 1/2 per cent to 9 per cent in June in the nurses settlement, which was high last year and more modest this year.

Nevertheless, while pay settlements have steadily been rising there has been a gradual offset from the falling number of overtime hours worked. The slowdown

in the economy has had its own effect on total earnings as employees have worked fewer hours and earned less at premium overtime rates. Total overtime hours worked in June fell to 13.63 million seasonally adjusted, compared with an average of 14.66 million in the final quarter of last year.

The effect of the slowdown can only become greater and will help to contain that of the higher pay settlements coming into the figures. James Capel, for instance, thinks that double-figure earnings are now most unlikely to be reached and that the peak will be about 9 1/2 per cent, probably in the August or September figures.

Beyond that there are powerful forces operating for lower settlements. The annual rate of increase in the retail price index will by the autumn have started to fall. Equally important, the rate at which unemployment is coming down has clearly begun to level off and may even reverse itself in the course of the next year. Yesterday's figures showed an average monthly fall over the past three months of 23,000 compared with a peak of 56,700 in January.

Today's figures on the money supply and inflation will provide another important guide to the extent of disinflationary pressure. But despite the gathering evidence that growth is falling to a more sustainable rate sterling remains vulnerable, and there can be no question of an early cut in rates.

### Hold the BT line

There are enough warning bleeps in British Telecom's first quarterly report to suggest that BT's fight for higher profits in the year to end-March will not be an easy one.

BT faces increased competition in its traditional marketing corner as more competition is let in. The British economy is slowing down, though BT is thanking heaven that the telephone and the fax machine are now taken for granted as necessities of life. Staff costs have risen 11.4 per cent during a period when staff numbers were virtually static. Wage negotiations with trade unions remain unresolved.

September's increased telephone prices will help, though stronger evidence that costs are being controlled is needed before analysts will remove their "caution" tag from BT shares.

Meanwhile, BT could still show a year-end pre-tax profit of £2.54 million, against £2.29 billion, which, added to the colour of a respectable prospective yield of 6 per cent, makes BT, on balance, a hold — at least for a while yet.

## Property disposals lift EHP profits

By Jeremy Andrews

European Home Products, the electrical goods retailer and wholesaler of foot-care products, reports a 37 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £17.1 million for the six months to June on sales of 17.7 per cent ahead at £189 million.

However, the profit includes an exceptional gain of £10.4 million from the disposal of properties, and ignoring this, fully diluted earnings per share slumped by 56 per cent to 6.0p. The interim dividend is held at 2.5p.

Trading profits fell by 22 per cent to £11.9 million because of problems in its consumer durables retailing businesses in Italy and Spain and the effect of the warm

weather on Werner, its German rights importer. Interest charges rose by £2.4 million to £5.2 million because of high interest rates and abnormally high levels of stocks in Spain and Italy.

In June, stocks were £8 million higher than seasonal requirements, but EHP hopes that they will be cleared in the peak selling period in the second half despite the imposition of controls on consumer credit by Madrid.

In southern Europe, the difficult conditions which EHP's durable goods retailing businesses encountered in the last quarter of 1988 persisted in the first half of the current year. *Tempus*, page 20

## Estate agencies hit Royal Insurance

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

Royal Insurance Holdings, which invested £220 million building up one of the largest estate agency chains in the country, lost nearly £14 million on it in the first half.

The number of outlets has been pruned from more than 800 to 761 with some shops being "mothballed" in the hope that trade will recover. By September 350 jobs will have gone, in the South-east, from a peak of 2,200.

But record profits from general insurance in the UK, the offset most of the problems in estate agency and in insurance in the United States.

For the six months to June 30, group pre-tax profits fell by 22 per cent to £120 million, better than the market expected.

The interim dividend has been raised by 13.2 per cent to 10.75p. Mr Ian Rushton, Royal's new chief executive, said this reflected the group's financial strength and prospects.

Capital and reserves have risen by 18 per cent since the year-end to £2.5 billion. Investment income in the first half was up 24 per cent to £241 million on a 21 per cent rise in premium income to £2.4 billion.

Mr Rushton said the new top management was looking at the group's structure and that floating off one or more parts separately was one option. *Tempus*, page 20

## Fame of Hall rockets

Maggie Hall, the Warburg corporate financier, is being considered for the job of astronaut on a Russian space mission. Hall, aged 25, and a member of the team which advised Iscoses on its successful bid for Gateway, the supermarket group, replied to an advertisement in *The Times* for "an astronaut, aged 21-40, no experience necessary." A proficient athlete — at high and long jump — Hall was shown the advert by Sue Hemmshaw, the Olympic athlete with whom she trained. "Sue said she had found just the job for me when she was round for dinner in July and I filled in an application form," said Hall. The 13,000 applicants were whittled down to a shortlist of 150. "The Russians have invited one Briton to go with them. I don't think I'm on the short list," said Hall, "but they tell me that my application is still under consideration." An Oxford biochemistry graduate, Hall is also something of a linguist. In January, she returned to London after a year at Warburg's Tokyo office and speaks fluent Japanese. "I had hoped languages might help my application. It would be a marvellous opportunity."

### Live wire

Cable and Wireless is evidently pleased to have enticed John Carrington, who was founder managing director of British Telecom's Cellnet operation, to spearhead its own application for a

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Three score and ten

Alan Bond, the troubled brewing tycoon, will at least be able to drown his sorrows with something other than Swan Lager this weekend, for he is one of countless millionaires industrialists and film stars making their way to the Palais Miroir in Tangiers today — on a specially chartered 747 — to celebrate the 70th birthday of Malcolm Forbes, the publisher. The letter of invitation to the party — apparently headed by his children — is

signed by sons Malcolm Jr., Bob, Christopher, and Tim, and advises guests to bring "black tie, ball gowns, turbans and tiaras... for an evening of exotic dancing, dining and fireworks." Clearly respectful of their father — whom they describe as "the Capitalist Prophet" — his sons also write: "Our father is not in heaven yet and, as he still signs our pay cheques, we are anxious to make his 70th birthday a memorable one."

### Pru launch

Swimming boldly against the tide is New York securities house Pru-Bache, which is planning to launch itself as a UK market-maker — specializing, at first, in eight stocks — with effect from Monday. Pru-Bache will, through ex-Wall Street trader Bradley Bilgore and Mark Mulcahy, make markets in Blue Arrow, BP, Burton, Glaxo, Hong Kong Telecom, Hanson, Reuters and Saatchi & Saatchi. Spokeswoman Jane Pickering, said: "We will be dealing in both shares and ADRs, and to begin with we have limited ourselves to those stocks in which we have significant trading experience or research capability." Pru-Bache is confident it could make money from the operation.

## Peter and the wolves

Peter Gregory is perhaps better qualified to run a dealing floor than to be the tax and financial planning expert at City Merchants Investment Management, the portfolio management arm of MIM Britannia Arrow. After all, he has just returned to the Square Mile after a year at Reading University doing a masters degree in wild life management. Gregory, who already has a degree in zoology, has only this week completed his thesis on DNA "finger-printing" as a means of proving parentage, even though he took up his post with City Merchants two weeks ago. Previously with Hoare Govett Financial Services, he says of his year off: "It was an indulgence. But I had been in the City for 15 years and it was something I wanted to do." Used to having every possible facility on tap during his life in the City, he admits it was difficult to adjust to there being only one photocopy in an eight-storey building full of students. "It made you realize how difficult student life is — but they don't realize it because they've never known anything else," he says. While he reacquaints himself with the luxuries of professional life, he is at least among friends. For Brian Baughan, who was managing director of HGFS, is now in the position at CMIM and two other key HGFS executives — Peter Clark, a top portfolio manager and Nigel Cartwright, the erstwhile company secretary — have also joined the firm.

Carol Leonard

## WARD WHITE

### INCREASED AND FINAL\* OFFERS FROM BOOTS

### IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR WARD WHITE SHAREHOLDERS

THE INCREASED OFFERS WILL CLOSE AT 1.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY 22ND AUGUST, 1989.

The Increased Offers are:

445p in cash for each Ward White ordinary share.

152.4125p in cash for each Ward White convertible preference share.

There is a partial Share Alternative and a full Loan Note Alternative.

To accept the Increased Offers you should complete the relevant Form of Acceptance and return it, together with your share certificate(s), to National Westminster Bank PLC, New Issues Department, P.O. Box 33, 153-157 Commercial Road, London E1 2DB, or at the New Issues Department, 2 Princes Street, London EC2, by 1.00pm on Tuesday 22nd August, 1989.

Copies of the blue and grey Forms of Acceptance may be obtained from National Westminster Bank at either of the addresses above.

If you are in any doubt as to how to complete the Form(s) of Acceptance please telephone National Westminster Bank on:-

01-791 0011

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# Cracks appear in KKR façade

Any trouble at KKR could have significant effects on the leveraged buyout industry

The biggest game on Wall Street in the 1980s has been borrowing money — lots of it — to buy up big chunks of corporate America.

Usually the biggest winners have been the firms which set up the deals, earning huge fees for their troubles.

But cracks are appearing in this glamorous façade. Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, which became a Wall Street superstar by gobbling up dozens of large companies using a mountain of debt, is beginning to falter — and that could presage troubles at other firms.

In little more than a decade, KKR has risen from next to nothing, with \$3 million (£1.8 million) of its own to invest, to control an empire comprising RJR Nabisco, the tobacco and food group, supermarket chains such as Stop & Shop and Safeway, and Duracell, the battery maker.

But analysts say several of the firm's recent leveraged buyouts will generate losses or poor returns for investors, or even bankruptcies.

Two companies KKR helped to acquire — SCI Television, with six network stations, and Seaman Furniture, the second-largest national furniture retailer — said they could not meet interest and principal payments. At least two others — Beatrice,



Pioneers of leveraged buyouts: George Roberts (left) and Jerome Kohlberg, founders of Kohlberg Kravis Roberts

the food group, and Jim Walter, the construction firm — look as if they will disappoint investors.

And Owens-Illinois, the glass and plastic company, is not turning out to be the smart buy many expected when the firm acquired it in 1987.

Trouble at KKR could have far-reaching effects.

In response to tumultuous takeover battles, the US Congress is considering new laws to curtail the use of debt. If deals engineered by the most prominent leveraged buyout firm come unglued, it could tip the balance in favour of greater regulation.

Representative Byron Dorn-

gan said: "If a good many of these companies begin to fail, those who have been sceptics will have a substantial amount of ammunition to try to slow this thing down. Those of us who have been moving to disallow interest deduction on junk bonds will be given a substantial boost."

Some of the firm's investors and industry experts say they think the firm will have trouble raising as much money as it has in the past. Both bond investors and bank lenders say they would scrutinize KKR deals more carefully before backing them.

KKR is by no means the only firm whose buyouts are

having difficulties. But its reputation, the size of its deals and its pre-eminence make its situation significant.

Since its inception in 1976, KKR has acquired 35 companies at more than \$62 billion, which would make up the largest industrial conglomerate in America, a colossus which the firm oversees with just five general partners and 14 associates.

And KKR is as active as ever. It is a potential bidder for UAL, owner of the nation's second-largest airline, BAT Industries and BTR.

Mr Jerome Kohlberg and his former partners, Mr Henry Kravis and Mr George Rob-

erts, are each estimated to be worth more than \$300 million. (Mr Kohlberg left the firm in 1987, because of "philosophical differences.")

Mr Kravis, aged 45, has become highly visible on the New York scene. By contrast, Mr Kohlberg, aged 64, who runs his own buyout firm, and Mr Roberts, aged 45, who works from KKR's office in San Francisco, tend to shun the limelight.

Some financial experts now say that the pioneering firm, eager to repeat its successes on an ever larger scale, has strayed from its early investment principles.

Even some of its own

investors are concerned that its fees on a deal have grown so enormously — from less than \$1 million to \$75 million — that KKR is now more interested in doing the next big transaction than in making sure it is a good one.

"I am relatively certain they won't generate the 50 per cent-plus returns that some people used as a basis for investing in leveraged buyouts," said Mr Scott Sperling of Harvard Management, which has invested with KKR since 1982.

A KKR partner, who did not want to be identified, conceded that SCI Television and Seaman were having difficulties, but said they might still work out.

As for returns slipping to 20 per cent, he said: "I don't believe it's going to happen," adding that so meagre a harvest would be "unacceptable." At that level, KKR would join the ranks of more traditional, less risk-oriented managers.

KKR had cited its willingness to put its own money on the line as a key reassurance to outside investors. But of late, its income from fees has dwarfed its money at risk. By 1986, when it put \$20 million into its \$1.8 billion fund, it made more than \$165 million in fees on just three deals.

Of course, some KKR deals could be big winners. Safeway Stores is paying down its debt and increasing operating profits; it could be taken public again soon. And RJR Nabisco looks promising.

But some industry analysts predict that the firm's overall returns are likely to fall considerably below the 30 and 35 per cent that investors have received. (New York Times)

## Wang 'to default on \$962m debt' as talks proceed

New York — Wang Laboratories has said it will default on almost \$1 billion (£645 million) in long- and short-term debt while discussions with its bank lenders continue.

Wang, locked in round-the-clock negotiations to restructure its \$962 million debt, indicated that it had failed to meet an extended deadline set for last Wednesday to reach an agreement with its bank creditors.

"They're playing a bit of hardball with their bankers," said Mr John W Adams, an analyst at Adams Harkness, the broker. "The banks are probably looking for more collateral."

Wang, a Massachusetts computer maker, has been struggling to extricate itself from serious financial difficulties. Last week, Mr Frederick C Wang, whose father, Dr An Wang, founded the company, resigned as president, although he remains a director of the company.

The company lost \$423.3 million in the year to end-June, and it has been widely

reported that it is negotiating to sell at least some of its troubled operations.

Wang is searching for a new president, but one potential candidate, Mr John Cunningham, a former Wang president, said this week that he had no interest in the position and was not discussing it with the company.

He left Wang in 1985 after it became clear that Dr An Wang was preparing to make his son president.

The company's shares fell 50 cents, to \$6, in heavy trading of 1.8 million shares on the American Stock Exchange on Wednesday.

Two Wang bond issues also lost ground, trading at 50 and 57 per cent of par, indicating that investors are nervous about whether the company will meet its obligations.

A Wang spokesman said that the negotiations were at a difficult stage and that he could not predict the outcome. Wang's financial condition has been rapidly deteriorating, a source close to the negotiations said.

(New York Times)

## Ogilvy loses account worth \$20m

From Mike Graham New York

Ogilvy and Mather has lost its \$20 million (£12.9 million) European Polaroid account in London, at a time when it is trying to keep up with aggressive earnings forecasts placed on it by WPP Group.

Ogilvy and Mather has cut back on staff in New York and is considering a payments system for managers that would be linked to balance sheet performance after the \$864 million (£557 million) acquisition by WPP in June.

But WPP's goal of a 12 per cent profit level by 1990 is doubted by many New York analysts. One said: "Getting from 8 to 10 per cent will not be any problem. But the real test will come next year."

Sources suggested the move could be because of possible conflicts of interest after the WPP acquisition. Eastman Kodak, a Polaroid rival, is a client of WPP's J Walter Thompson.

## Job freeze reported at Saatchi

From Our Correspondent New York

Saatchi & Saatchi is reported to have stopped hiring in New York in an effort to boost its sagging revenues.

Advertising Age, the American magazine, said Saatchi was frantically scrambling to improve its 1989 fiscal year figures which are tallied at the end of September and are expected to be sharply down. Mr Maurice Saatchi shocked shareholders last June when he announced that the year's first-half earnings showed growth had stopped and parts of the company would have to be sold.

Since then Saatchi has put its Hay Group consultancy up for sale and dismissed dozens of employees. Despite winning half of Burger King's \$215 million (£137 million) account, the head count at Saatchi is well below last year.

Saatchi would not comment on reports of cutbacks.

## SEC toughens rules on selling of penny stocks

Washington — The US Securities and Exchange Commission has approved tougher rules for brokers trying to sell risky, low-priced stocks to new customers.

The unanimous decision of the five-member panel is meant to tone down the pressurizing sales tactics of "boiler room operations," where large numbers of brokers sell low-priced, unlisted stocks over the telephone.

"The rule brings us a weapon against this scurrilous conduct," said Mr David Ruder, chairman of the SEC.

The rules, which take effect from January 1, involve only stocks traded on the "pink sheets," exempting those traded on ex-

changes or by the National Association of Securities Dealers. Also exempted are stocks that trade for more than \$5 a share or securities issued by companies with more than \$2 million (£1.3 million) in tangible net assets.

Those affected are the so-called penny stocks — low-priced securities, sometimes costing less than a cent a share. Many, but not all, of these are in companies with no operations that promise to use investor funds to make unspecified acquisitions.

The SEC contends that because the securities are not listed on an exchange or quoted on Nasdaq machines, unscrupulous dealers are able to use boiler room operations

and other tactics to make enormous profits by manipulating the price of the securities and persuading customers to buy the shares at excessive mark-ups.

Under the new rules, orders of penny stocks that are solicited by the broker cannot be completed until a customer returns a written approval of the order.

The broker will also have to verify the financial situation, investment experience and investment objectives of a new customer and make a written determination about the suitability of the investment for the customer.

Suitability requirements have long been in effect, but the new rule requires the customer to sign a

document indicating his financial position and investment objectives.

Public response to the SEC proposal was sharply divided. Some argued that the commission should go further, but some members of the brokerage community expressed concern that the rule might affect legitimate capital-raising by small companies.

The rule will not apply to customers who have made three or more trades in any of the designated stocks over the last year, or who have maintained an account at the brokerage firm in which securities or funds were deposited for more than a year.

Mr Joseph Grundfest, of the SEC, expressed scepticism that the rule

would have its desired effect. He called it a "speed bump on a very wide highway" that would not slow down unscrupulous brokers.

"Unless we're able to get in there quickly, while the money is still coming in, and stop the operation while it's ongoing, the odds of really making a dent and getting the money back for investors who are being defrauded are relatively low," he said.

But Mr Joseph Goldstein, head of the SEC enforcement division's new task force on penny stock fraud, said that the rules would provide important records that would aid any investigation of abuse in the low-priced securities market.

(New York Times)

This announcement appears as a matter of record only

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## British Telecom

**FIRST QUARTER RESULTS**

|                                              | 1989  | 1988  |
|----------------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Turnover                                     | 2,423 | 2,682 |
| Operating profit                             | 740   | 691   |
| Profit before tax                            | 695   | 610   |
| Profit attributable to ordinary shareholders | 400   | 390   |
| Earnings per ordinary share                  | 6.45  | 5.50  |

### Highlights of the first quarter to 30 June, 1989

- Operating profit up 7.1%
- Earnings per share up 4.3%
- Continued strong growth in inland and international call volumes
- Business and residential exchange line connections up by 10.9% and 3.4% respectively
- Strong growth in demand for cellular telephone services
- Capital investment totalled £814 million
- Over 80% of trunk calls switched digitally
- Over 25% of customer lines served by digital exchanges
- Continued improvements in quality of service

If you have any queries as an investor please call 0345 010505. For daily information on the British Telecom share price and matters of interest to shareholders generally, please call 0345 010707. You may telephone these numbers from anywhere in the UK for the price of a local call.

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# Davis 'willing to lift UAL bid' as chief seeks buyout talks

Mr Marvin Davis, the Californian billionaire, has said he is willing to raise his bid for the UAL Corporation to \$275 (£171) a share from \$240.

The move comes as the chairman of the company, Mr Stephen Wolf, had begun to explore the possibility of a buyout of UAL, the parent of United Airlines, with the backing of the pilots' union.

The UAL board was yesterday expected to discuss a possible bid by management or a leveraged recapitalization, under which the company would borrow to make special payments to its shareholders.

In his latest proposal Mr Davis indicated he was prepared to take his bid, now valued at \$5.4 billion, to the shareholders. While a spokesman for Mr Davis said the bid should be considered as friendly, he has asked that shareholders be allowed to vote to remove all UAL directors except Mr Wolf.

Under the proposal, the board would be reduced from 16 members to five, including Mr Wolf and four nominees by Mr Davis.

With Mr Davis, the nominees will include his two sons,



Davis: 'friendly' bidder

John and Gregg, and Mr James Kneser. The three are executives with the Davis Cos.

The co-operation of Mr Wolf, who is credited with helping to turn around the company after he became chairman in 1988, is considered by many Wall Street analysts to be essential to the completion of any deal.

"We continue to hope we will be able to work together with the company's board, management and labour groups to arrive at a transaction," Mr Davis said.

In an appeal to the company's unions — the pilots, machinists and flight attendants — Mr Davis said he

intended to work closely with them.

Wall Street traders have begun to grow uncertain of the outcome of the UAL talks and for the second day the shares fell, losing \$2.50 to \$231.75. This followed a gain of more than \$90 in under two weeks, on speculation of a bidding war. While some of the largest buyout firms, including Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, have contacted UAL to express their interest in a possible deal, no solid offer has been presented, sources said.

This week, Mr Brian Freeman, financial adviser to the machinists' union, said he had been contacted by several parties, besides Mr Davis, expressing interest in UAL.

He said he would meet representatives of Mr Davis next week to discuss his bid. The union represents 20,000 mechanics and ground service workers at United. Its co-operation, with that of the pilots' union, is considered crucial to a successful takeover.

"We're relatively comfortable with our current position in this process," Mr Freeman said. "No party can do a deal without the machinists." (New York Times)

Scottish & Newcastle Breweries enjoyed a late rise, amid mounting speculation that Elders IXL, the big Australian brewing group known for its Fosters lager, may have at last found a buyer for its 22 per cent stake.

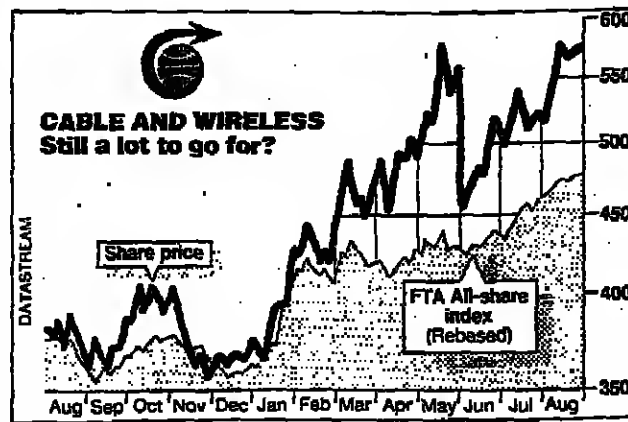
The shares ended the day 6p higher at 409p as more than 4 million shares changed hands. This is close to the level that Elders paid for the bulk of its original stake last year after launching an unwanted, £1.2 billion bid.

However, the bid was later referred to the Monopolies Commission and eventually blocked by the Government which then instructed Elders to reduce its holding to below 10 per cent by the beginning of next year.

The S&N share price has only recently showed signs of recovery to its former levels amid claims that Elders will sell the stake on to another potential bidder. Once again the name of Lowenbrau, the big West German brewing group, has been mentioned. Dealers claim that the opening shot for a bid would be about the 440p level.

The rest of the drinks sector continued to make headway as investors raised their glasses to the news of the sharp rise in wine and spirit sales because of the hot weather.

Gains were seen in Bass, 14p to £11.10, HP Bulmer, 33p to 84p, Devonish, 2p to 33p,



Greenall Whitley, 4p to 358p and Wolverhampton & Dudley, 3p to 473p.

Grand Metropolitan's share price rose 9p to 640p following this week's news of the disposal of Bumble Bee Seafoods for \$269 million (£172 million). It brings the value of disposals since January to almost \$1 billion.

Elsewhere, market-makers continued to feel the squeeze as a few food managers attempted to buy stock. Share prices were able to extend Wednesday's gains although they closed below their best levels of the day following a

slow start to trading on Wall Street and a further decline in the pound against the dollar.

Some better-than-expected average earnings figures for June and the US trade figures saw the FT-SE 100 index climb by almost 30 points at one stage. It eventually finished 14.2 up at 2,360.0 and has now recovered virtually all the losses stemming from Monday's correction.

The narrower FT index of 30 shares also gained 13.2 to 1,975.0 as turnover reached 544 million shares.

Dealers point out that institutions are not sellers of

stock and this has forced market-makers on the defensive.

But the weak pound cut the ground from under government securities which restricted gains to 2½ at the longer end.

Among the leaders, ICI eased 7p to £12.81, worried by whispers that its latest herb drug under development has suffered a setback.

Cable and Wireless was an early feature, climbing 13p to 585p on a turnover of 6.5 million shares as the group announced that it had secured the appointment of a senior director from its rival British Telecom, down 2½p at 249p.

Dealers claim that this latest bout of institutional support was prompted by talk of an important review of the company — being published by Goldman Sachs, the New York securities house.

Goldman is bullish about Cable and Wireless and has calculated that its share price should be trading at about the 650p level. Goldman was responsible for handling the American end of Rascal Telecom's flotation last year. Investors are now hoping it can do the same for Cable and Wireless.

Cable and Wireless recently announced plans to press ahead with an ADR facility for its shares on Wall Street which is likely to boost the appeal of

the shares on both sides of the Atlantic.

Plessey firmed 1p to 267p following an attack on its underlying level of profitability by GEC and Siemens in their final offer document. GEC and Siemens claim that last year's earnings included a £5.3 million refund from the pension fund and a benefit of almost £11 million following adjustments in the tax charge. GEC advanced 1½p to 277p.

Pearson, the industrial conglomerate which owns the Lazard Bros merchant bank

BZW, in its latest review of the motor sector, is bullish about the distributors. Demand may have fallen, but supply has, at last, caught up, leading to an increase in registrations. It rates Plaxtons, 1p up at 236p, and Evans Halshaw, unchanged at 260p, as the best buys.

and the Financial Times, was unchanged at 810p despite the publisher, had increased its holding by 1.1 per cent to 9.3 per cent. Mr Michael David-Weill, a director of Pearson, has also increased his holding by 3.2 million shares to 9.3 per cent.

Lucas Industries was a strong market, climbing 12p to 715p with broker

## Hang Seng Bank profit up by 15%

From A Correspondent, Hong Kong

The Hang Seng Bank yesterday declared interim profits after tax and transfer to its secret reserve up by 15 per cent to HK\$556.2 million (£45 million).

Analysis said the bank's performance was largely in line with market expectations and foreshadowed similar profit levels for its parent, the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

Sir QW Lee, the chairman of the Hang Seng Bank, said he expected similar results for the full year.

However, despite the satisfactory announcement by the bank, worries are mounting that the banking business in Hong Kong would suffer in the wake of the Tiananmen Square killings in Peking in June.

"The banking outlook in Hong Kong is going to look

rather difficult in the coming months as loan demands cool off and interest rates continue easing down, having an impact on margins," said Mr Barry Yates, of First Pacific Securities, the Hong Kong stockbroker.

Mr Yates added that rising non-interest expenses such as staffing costs, inflation and rentals, were likely to reduce the profitability of banks.

Yesterday the Hang Seng Bank directors recommended an interim dividend of 27 Hong Kong cents per share compared with 23.3 cents last year.

Earnings per share rose from \$8.6 Hong Kong cents to 67.4 cents.

The bank's total group assets totalled HK\$150,793 million at the end of June, compared with HK\$129,665 million six months earlier.

## NZ Steel approval expected

Wellington (Reuters) — The statutory managers of Equicorp International, the collapsed investment company, said they were optimistic Helenus Corp's bid for NZ Steel would receive Commerce Commission approval despite not getting initial commission clearance on Wednesday. Equicorp holds 80 per cent of NZ Steel.

"The prospects for ultimate Commerce Commission approval remain as they were — very good," Mr Kerry Stotter, an Equicorp statutory manager, said.

"It is quite usual for the Commission to extend its deliberations for 20 days. The Commission, which has until December 7 to make a final decision, said on Wednesday it was concerned that the Broken Hill Proprietary Company, a major steel importer to New Zealand, held 31 per cent of Helenus.

## Another record for Nikkei

(Reuters) — Market players took a rest after Wednesday's rally and price rises mixed in light trading. The key, 225-share Nikkei index firmed just 5.96 points to finish at 35,090.11 — a record close for the second day in a row.

The index surged by 273.46 points on Wednesday, closing above 35,000 for the first time. The Nikkei reached a record for intra-day dealings of 35,191.56 shortly after the

opening — surpassing the previous record of 35,086.10 achieved on Wednesday — before slumping.

Mr Yasutoshi Kakiuchi, the head of the equity department for James Capel Pacific, said: "After the sudden pitch to a new high, the market needs to pause."

Some investors took profits, but Turnover shrank to about 450 million shares after rising

to 550 million on Wednesday. One broker said that buyers were shifting from high-priced blue chips that have been popular since last week to stocks more in the ¥1,500 to ¥3,000 range. Airline issues, the day's leading sector, soared on market talk that JAL Trading Inc, a 70 per cent-owned subsidiary of Japan Airlines, may list its shares on a Japanese exchange.

### NEW YORK

## Dow ahead in opening dealings

(Reuters) — Shares opened mixed, with blue chips higher and the broader market showing declines.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up 5 points at 2,698.29, but declines outnumbered rises by four to three in the wider market. Traders said that the opening

may reflect a turnaround in the bond market, which reversed an early rise as traders considered a narrower-than-expected US trade report for June.

The report suggests a strong domestic economy. Frankfurt (AP-Dow Jones) — The DAX index fell 4.88 to 1,576.16.

Singapore — The Straits Times industrial index was down by 1.74 to 1,375.56.

Sydney — The All-Ordinaries index rose 7.2 to 1,726.7.

Hong Kong — The Hang Seng index shed 18.92 to 2,616.98. The Hong Kong index fell 12.78 to 1,726.25.

## Marley in launch of £50m issue

Marley, one of the largest manufacturers of building materials in Britain, has set up a £50 million commercial paper programme as a further source of short-term funding.

Barclays de Zoete Wedd is arranging the programme. It is joined as dealers by NatWest, Capital Markets and Hill Samuel Bank. Barclays Bank is to act as issuer and paying agent.

The first issues are expected to be made early next month.

## No referral

The Department of Trade and Industry will not refer Barclays' £50 million offer for Pentland Industries to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

## US toy group

Earnings at Toys 'R' Us, the US toy group, were \$23.5 million (£14.9 million), or 12 cents a share, in the second quarter, compared with \$23.1 million (12 cents) a year ago, reflecting a 3-for-2 share split in May.

## Rentokil buy

Rentokil Group is paying £1.3 million cash for De Smedt and Monsieur, the Belgian tropical plants group.

## RECENT ISSUES

| Company                 | Price  | Quantity |
|-------------------------|--------|----------|
| Abbey National (130p)   | 149.42 | 100      |
| Alpha Estates (70p)     | 86     | 40       |
| Amberley (100p)         | 65.2   | 100      |
| Babcock Int (57p)       | 146.2  | 100      |
| Darby Group             | 105    | 100      |
| Enor                    | 67.1   | 100      |
| Forwell Group (62p)     | 700    | 100      |
| Invicta Sound           | 208.10 | 100      |
| Lacoste (135p)          | 101.1  | 100      |
| Leveraged Opp (100p)    | 447    | 100      |
| Molyneux Estates        | 26     | 100      |
| Pacific Property (50p)  | 53     | 100      |
| Penton Group            | 111.1  | 100      |
| Polar Electronics       | 123.3  | 100      |
| Presidio Oil            | 110    | 100      |
| Radisson                | 89.1   | 100      |
| Richmond Oil/Gas (105p) | 32     | 100      |
| Seepay Ltd (20p)        | 173    | 100      |
| Sunshine Ltd (50p)      | 141    | 100      |
| Tavern Leisure (50p)    | 111.1  | 100      |
| Thornton Asset          | 123.3  | 100      |
| Treat                   | 128    | 100      |
| Trace Computers (125p)  | 105    | 100      |
| Unico (50p)             | 106    | 100      |
| Video Magic Leis (50p)  | 49.6   | 100      |
| West Scaffolding (105p) | 116    | 100      |
| Yorkshire Radio (200p)  | 280.5  | 100      |

RIGHTS ISSUES  
Airtel N/P  
Astra N/P  
Bredon N/P  
Caspian Oil N/P  
Control Technique N/P  
Equinox N/P  
Laird Group N/P  
Memier Sugarcane N/P  
Nestor N/P  
Sutherland N/P

### LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

| Option | Call | Put | Call | Put |
|--------|------|-----|------|-----|
| Ad Lib | 500  | 74  | 82   | 18  |
| Ad Lib | 500  | 74  | 82   | 18  |
| Ad Lib | 500  | 74  | 82   | 18  |
| Ad Lib | 500  | 74  | 82   | 18  |
| Ad Lib | 500  | 74  | 82   | 18  |
| Ad Lib | 500  | 74  | 82   | 18  |
| Ad Lib | 500  | 74  | 82   | 18  |
| Ad Lib | 500  | 74  | 82   | 18  |
| Ad Lib | 500  | 74  | 82   | 18  |
| Ad Lib | 500  | 74  | 82   | 18  |

### ALPHA STOCKS

| Vol '000 | Vol '000 | Vol '000  | Vol '000 |
|----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| ADT      | 811      | Cookson   | 2,532    |
| Ad-Lyons | 2,993    | Courtauld | 1,187    |
| Admiral  | 2,993    | Dalrymple | 1,187    |
| Admiral  | 2,993    | Dalrymple | 1,187    |
| Admiral  | 2,993    | Dalrymple | 1,187    |
| Admiral  | 2,993    | Dalrymple | 1,187    |
| Admiral  | 2,993    | Dalrymple | 1,187    |
| Admiral  | 2,993    | Dalrymple | 1,187    |
| Admiral  | 2,993    | Dalrymple | 1,187    |
| Admiral  | 2,993    | Dalrymple | 1,187    |

### WALL STREET

| Aug 16            | Aug 15  | Aug 14  | Aug 13  | Aug 12  |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| AMR Co            | 74 1/4  | 74 1/4  | 74 1/4  | 74 1/4  |
| ASA               | 42 1/2  | 42 1/2  | 42 1/2  | 42 1/2  |
| AT&T              | 38 1/2  | 38 1/2  | 38 1/2  | 38 1/2  |
| Bank of America   | 27 1/2  | 27 1/2  | 27 1/2  | 27 1/2  |
| Boeing            | 58 1/2  | 58 1/2  | 58 1/2  | 58 1/2  |
| British Petroleum | 15 1/2  | 15 1/2  | 15 1/2  | 15 1/2  |
| British Telecom   | 249 1/2 | 249 1/2 | 249 1/2 | 249 1/2 |
| British Airways   | 15 1/2  | 15 1/2  | 15 1/2  | 15 1/2  |
| British Airways   | 15 1/2  | 15 1/2  | 15 1/2  | 15 1/2  |
| British Airways   | 15 1/2  | 15 1/2  | 15 1/2  | 15 1/2  |

### CANADIAN PRICES

| Vol '000 | Vol '000 | Vol '000  | Vol '000 |
|----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Admiral  | 2,993    | Dalrymple | 1,187    |
| Admiral  | 2,993    | Dalrymple | 1,187    |
| Admiral  | 2,993    | Dalrymple | 1,187    |
| Admiral  | 2,993    | Dalrymple | 1,187    |
| Admiral  | 2,993    | Dalrymple | 1,187    |
| Admiral  | 2,993    | Dalrymple | 1,187    |
| Admiral  | 2,993    | Dalrymple | 1,187    |
| Admiral  | 2,993    | Dalrymple | 1,187    |
| Admiral  | 2,993    | Dalrymple | 1,187    |
| Admiral  | 2,993    | Dalrymple | 1,187    |

### THE TIMES

| Vol '000 | Vol '000 | Vol '000  | Vol '000 |
|----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Admiral  | 2,993    | Dalrymple | 1,187    |
| Admiral  | 2,993    | Dalrymple | 1,187    |
| Admiral  | 2,993    | Dalrymple | 1,187    |
| Admiral  | 2,993    | Dalrymple | 1,187    |
| Admiral  | 2,993    | Dalrymple | 1,187    |
| Admiral  | 2,993    | Dalrymple | 1,187    |
| Admiral  | 2,993    | Dalrymple | 1,187    |
| Admiral  | 2,993    | Dalrymple | 1,187    |
| Admiral  | 2,993    | Dalrymple | 1,187    |
| Admiral  | 2,993    | Dalrymple | 1,187    |

### THE "SHELL" TRANSPORT AND TRADING COMPANY, p.l.c.

Notice is hereby given that a balance of the Register will be struck on Tuesday, 5th September, 1989 for the preparation of the half-yearly dividend payable on the FIRST PREFERENCE SHARES for the six months ending 30th September, 1989. The dividend will be paid on 3rd October, 1989.

For Transferees to receive this dividend, their transfers must be lodged with the Company's Registrar, Lloyd's Bank Plc, Registrars, Department, Gresham Street, London, EC2A 3PU, not later than 3.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 5th September, 1989.

By Order of the Board  
S1 7NA  
18th August, 1989  
Company Secretary

Copies of this report may be obtained from the London Paying Agents: Barclays Bank PLC, Stock Exchange Services Department, 54 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3AH and Midland Bank PLC, International Division, Securities Services Department, 110-114 Cannon Street, London EC4N 6AA. The report for the 3rd quarter of 1989 will be published on November 2, 1989.







[illegible]



Family Division

## Hearsay ban in care proceedings

Bradford City Metropolitan Council v K (Minors)

Before Mr Justice Otton  
[Judgment July 31]

Justices were correct when on a preliminary point of law before the hearing of care proceedings relating to two girls aged five they ruled that evidence of statements made by one twin and a school teacher and to a foster parent could not be adduced as such evidence was in breach of the hearsay rule.

However, the justices erred in law when they decided that the evidence might be admissible as to the state of mind of the maker but was inadmissible as it was not in the best of evidence.

Mr Justice Otton, sitting as an additional judge of the Family Division, so held in dismissing the local authority's appeal by way of case stated from the refusal of Bradford City Juvenile Court to admit in evidence statements made by one twin to a third party.

Mr Patrick Palmer for the local authority, Mr Howard Elgot for the guardian of the child, Mr Jonathan L. Rose for the parents.

MR JUSTICE OTTON said that in January 1988, the local authority instituted care proceedings in respect of twin girls pursuant to section 1(1) of the Children and Young Persons Act 1969. It was alleged that both girls were exposed to moral danger under section 1(2)(c).

Interim care orders were made in respect of both girls and a guardian *ad litem* was appointed.

At the contested hearing in June 1988 the justices were invited by the local authority to rule on a preliminary point whether certain evidence to be given by a school teacher and a foster parent as to what had been said to them by one twin was admissible.

The justices were not informed of the exact nature of the statements but it was apparent that they consisted of allegations of sexual abuse.

The justices were of the opinion that the evidence proposed to be adduced was in breach of the hearsay rule and could not be adduced. However, the justices, without invitation, also decided that "while evidence might have been admitted to show the state of mind of the maker, they were of the view that the evidence was inadmissible as the prejudicial effect of the disclosure outweighed its probative value."

On July 13, 1988 the justices were invited by the local authority to dismiss the complaints. Wardship proceedings were commenced and the twins were now wards of court.

The questions for the opinion of the High Court were: 1 Were the justices correct in ruling that the evidence of statements made by one twin was being said to her by a child not called to give evidence was

inadmissible in proceedings relating to the child under the 1969 Act?

2 If the evidence was not inadmissible under the hearsay rule because it was being sought to establish the state of mind of the child rather than the truth of what was being said, were the justices right to hold such evidence inadmissible on the basis that the prejudicial effect outweighed its probative value?

The statements had not been shown to the court. The court had been informed that the statements contained allegations about the conduct of a close member of the family who was not concerned with their control.

Mr Palmer submitted, *inter alia*, that the refusal of the justices to admit hearsay evidence was erroneous.

He accepted that the hearsay rule did apply generally to the juvenile court but submitted that the rule should be relaxed, particularly to the interests of children, and relied on the fact that in the wardship jurisdiction hearsay evidence should not be excluded.

In the wardship jurisdiction the court was required to balance the interests of the child, of the parties and the requirements of the hearsay rule.

In principle and logic, he submitted, there was no reason why the same approach should not be adopted by justices in care proceedings.

His Lordship had come to the conclusion that because there was a relaxation of the hearsay rule in wardship proceedings that could not be a reason for allowing such a relaxation in care proceedings before justices.

The law was firm. Where a complaint was made to a third person and not in the presence of a party by a person not called as a witness, the ordinary rules of exclusion applied.

Since bearing argument in the present case his Lordship had considered the Court of Appeal decision in *Re B (Minors) v A* (The Times June 9, 1989).

It had been held there that the county court, exercising the statutory matrimonial jurisdiction in access and custody proceedings, could not waive the hearsay rule in relation to those proceedings which were not within the exception in section 18 of the Civil Evidence Act 1968.

Was there any assistance from *statutory* care proceedings which were civil proceedings? The Civil Evidence Act 1968 and 1972 had not applied to care proceedings in the juvenile court; see *R v Wood Green Crown Court, Ex parte P* (1983) 4 FLR 205. The Evidence Act 1938 was concerned and the twins were now wards of court.

In the present case the school teacher and the foster parent could have given evidence but only in proof of what the child actually said and not as to what was said to her by a child not called to give evidence was

the contention that the fact a complaint had been made was sufficient for the court when considering whether the children had been exposed to moral danger. There was no statutory rule whereby the evidence could be adduced.

On the second question, whether it was open to the justices to come to the conclusion that if the evidence was admissible then it was inadmissible on the basis that its prejudicial effect outweighed its probative value, that was a well established principle in common law to criminal cases. No authority had been cited to the effect that the rule applied to civil proceedings.

His Lordship was satisfied that justices had no residual discretion to exclude evidence once it had been shown that the evidence was admissible.

As Lord Stirling of Gleadale said in *NSPCC v A* (1978) AC 171, 239: "It must be law, not discretion, which is in command."

In any event the decision was premature as it was difficult to see how the justices could have reached such a decision without looking at the statements.

The answer to the first question was in the affirmative. The justices were correct in ruling that the evidence of a witness as to the truth of what was being said to her by a child not called to give evidence was inadmissible in the care proceedings.

On the second question the justices were in error in law in holding that such evidence was inadmissible on the basis that its prejudicial effect outweighed its probative value. As the answer to the first question was in the affirmative it followed that the appeal by the local authority failed.

Solicitors: Mr Allen R. Sykes, Bradford City Metropolitan Council, Mr T. L. Cough & Co., Bradford.

## Planning conditions survive consent decision

Regina v Tumbidge Wells Borough Council, Ex parte Blue Boys Development Ltd and Another

Before Mr Justice Popplewell  
[Judgment July 20]

Where a planning authority had made a determination pursuant to section 53 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971, that a change of use of land did not constitute a development of the land so that further planning permission would not have to be granted, that did not affect any conditions on the development of the land which had been attached to previous planning permission or any prior covenants entered into pursuant to an agreement made under section 52 of the 1971 Act in relation to the same land by the applicant for the section 53 determination.

Mr Justice Popplewell so held in the Queen's Bench Division in rejecting an application for a declaration by Blue Boys Development Ltd and another.

Blue Boys Development Ltd, the second applicant, had been entitled to dispose of 12 houses for permanent residential use not-withstanding the conditions imposed on the grant of previous planning permission or the provisions of a covenant entered into pursuant to section 52 of the 1971 Act between Mr Titterell and the respondent council, the respondent planning authority.

Section 23 of the 1971 Act provides: "(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, planning permission is required for the carrying out of any development of land."

Section 53 provides: "(1) If any person who proposes to carry out any operations on any land wishes to have it determined whether the carrying out of those operations, or

the making of that change, would constitute or involve development of the land and, if so, whether an application for planning permission under this part of this Act, having regard to the provisions of the development order, he may, either as part of an application for planning permission or without any such application, apply to the local planning authority to determine that question."

Clause 3 of the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order (SI 1987 No 76) provides: "(1) Subject to the provisions of this Order, where a building or other land is used for a purpose of any class specified in the Schedule, the use of that building or other land is used for any other purpose of the same class shall not be taken to involve development of the land."

Mr Clive Newton for Blue Boys; Mr David Lamming for Tumbidge Wells Borough Council; Mr Titterell did not appear and was not represented.

MR JUSTICE POPPLEWELL said that on February 2, 1985, Mr Titterell applied for planning permission for 12 self-catering holiday units on certain land.

On October 1, 1985 the respondent council and Mr Titterell entered into an agreement pursuant to section 52 of the 1971 Act whereby Mr Titterell agreed to grant a planning permission for 12 self-catering holiday units on certain land.

In that agreement, a number of covenants were entered into. Those included, *inter alia*, a

deed, which was in command.

Abbassey and Another v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis and Others

Before Lord Justice Purchas, Lord Justice Mustill and Lord Justice Woolf  
[Judgment July 28]

A person being arrested without a warrant should be given adequate information of the reason for his arrest.

The question whether the arrested person was reasonably informed of the reasons for the arrest was ultimately a question for the jury which should not be withdrawn from them unless there was no evidence on which they could reach a relevant conclusion. It would, therefore, be wrong for the judge to withdraw that issue from the jury on the ground that it was a technical matter.

The Court of Appeal stated allowing an appeal by the defendants, Sir Kenneth Newman, Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis, WPC Sharon Richardson, WPC Beverly Walter, PC Richard Mardon and PC Charles Griggs, from the decision of Mr Justice Leonard dated May 6, 1988 who gave judgment for the plaintiffs, Mr and Mrs Tabb Abbassey for unlawful arrest and false imprisonment.

The jury awarded Mr Abbassey damages of £750 for assault and £5,000 for wrongful arrest and imprisonment. Mrs Abbassey £10,000 for wrongful arrest and false imprisonment.

In July 1983 the plaintiffs were observed by the second, third, fourth and fifth defendants (who were a police vehicle) to be driving a Mercedes motor car towards Holland Park in an inconsiderate manner.

The police vehicle followed the Mercedes to Holland Park where a discussion took place between Mr Abbassey and WPC Richardson.

Mr Abbassey was unhelpful and he was told by WPC Walter that he was "being arrested for unlawful possession". Mrs Abbassey intervened to prevent Mr Abbassey from being taken away and was arrested too. Subsequently, it was established that Mr Abbassey had the authority of the owner to drive the Mercedes.

Mr Peter Thompson for the defendants; Miss Cheryl Williams for the first plaintiff and Mr John Burrett for the second plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE WOOLF said that the appeal raised the following issues: (a) the extent of the obligation on a police constable to inform a person whom he is arresting of the reason for the arrest and

(b) what guidance a judge who was trying an action involving a claim for damages, was entitled to give to a jury in the course of summing up as to the amount of damages it was appropriate to award.

Normally a question as to whether or not a proper explanation of the reason for the arrest had been given by the arresting officer to the person who was being arrested was a question of fact for the jury and not a matter of law for the judge.

However, if on the defendant's own evidence the explanation which was given to Mr Abbassey was not capable of being an adequate explanation, then the judge was entitled to withdraw the issue from the jury and rule as he did that the arrest was unlawful.

Mr Burrett submitted that Mr Abbassey was informed that he was being arrested for unlawful possession which was a different offence from taking away a motor vehicle or theft or receiving. Accordingly, Mr Abbassey was informed of an offence which was different from the one for which he was arrested.

His Lordship did not accept that the issue could be determined on that simple basis.

Taking WPC Walter's evidence as a whole it was clear that the offences which she had in mind when arresting Mr Abbassey were the ones relied on throughout by the defendants, namely, theft, receiving and unlawfully taking and driving away. She knew that she had statutory power to arrest for those offences though not the precise statutory provision.

The critical issue was whether the judge was right to conclude that the phrase "unlawful possession" (which clearly referred to the judge's direction to the jury as to the main basis of the offence) was incapable of properly being regarded by the jury as compliance with the obligation imposed on a police officer to inform the person being arrested of the non-technical or precise language the reason why he was being arrested.

That question had to be answered taking into account all the background circumstances since the officer's conduct had

accounted for substantially more than 50 per cent of the floor space. The complex was occupied as to some 57 per cent by the LRB, some 26 per cent by ILEA and some 3 per cent by other bodies.

The LRB was obliged by law to dispose of such of the property as it did not require. That had led to an application for a determination that future use of the premises would constitute or involve development for which planning permission would be required.

The secretary of state had also erred in deciding to grant planning permission, against the recommendation of the appointed planning inspector, for use as offices for any purpose of the entirety of County Hall in that he had failed to apply the correct test of competing needs against the inspector had concluded that the need to continue the existing use of the building outweighed any need to put it to an office use.

The Court of Appeal stated in respect of the inspector's judgment allowing an appeal by the London Residuary Body (LRB) under section 53 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971, from that part of the decision of Mr Justice Simon Brown (The Times March 30, 1988) whereby he had dismissed their notice of objection challenging the inspector's decision to grant planning permission for the use of the building as offices, that the decision of the secretary of state should be remitted to him with the opinion of the court for rehearing and determination.

Four other appeals by the LRB and four appeals by the secretary of state from the judgment of Mr Justice Simon Brown, quashing the secretary of state's decision to grant planning permission on the ground that he had failed to give adequate reasons, were dismissed.

Mr Daniel Robins, QC and Mr John Howell for LRB; Mr Michael Fitzgerald, QC and Mr John Hobson for Lambeth and the Inner London Education Authority (ILEA); Mr Duncan Ouseley and Miss Alison Foster for the secretary of state.

LORD JUSTICE SLADE said that the appeals concerned County Hall, the control of which had passed to the LRB when the GLC was abolished by the London Government Act 1985.

Taking the four blocks of which it was comprised as a whole, office accommodation

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Although agreeing with the inspector, the manner in which the secretary of state had expressed himself in his decision letter had introduced a significant additional factor in that he had said that the distinct characteristics of those functions were "sufficiently different from commercial office use to support the conclusion that the present use of the main building is regarded as sui generis."

His Lordship did not accept that the submission that "commercial" had been a loosely expressed synonym for "conventional."

In his judgment the inference was inevitable that the secretary of state had misdirected himself by having either (a) been misled by the inspector's reasoning, or (b) he was introducing the incorrect reference to commercial use as an additional reason of his own.

With regard to the grant of planning permission the test applied by the inspector had been that "there was always a presumption in favour of allowing applications for development unless that presumption was rebutted by a demonstration of a demonstrable harm to interests of acknowledged importance" as laid down in the Department of Environment Circular 14/83.

If, on the other hand a valid planning objection had been made out the inspector had to determine whether that objection outweighed any need for the proposed development or any planning benefit to be derived from it. If it had then planning permission should be refused.

The retention of an existing use was capable of being a material planning consideration and thus constituting a valid

to be judged bearing in mind that he was not required to do more than was reasonable to those circumstances.

Where it was extremely important to recognize that the right to arrest without a warrant was an infringement of the liberty of the individual, it had also to be borne in mind that police officers had frequently to perform their duties in circumstances when it was unusual to expect them to use precise legal language.

The present case was just the sort where the view which the jury formed of the facts would be decisive.

If the jury concluded that in general terms the description which WPC Walter gave of events was correct, then it would be entitled to conclude that she had done sufficient at least to inform Mr Abbassey that he was being arrested for the offence of unlawful taking and driving away the vehicle.

His Lordship therefore regarded the judge's ruling as being wrong. While his Lordship would not have come to the same conclusion as the judge, his Lordship accepted as a matter of fact but not as a matter of law that it was possible, depending on the circumstances, to come to a different conclusion as to the adequacy of the reason for the arrest.

However, as a matter of law it was certainly not possible to say that the jury properly directed were not entitled to come to the conclusion that the reason given was adequate.

On the second issue, his Lordship did not accept that it would not be practical and possible to work out a better system than at present existed with regard to helping juries as to the assessment of damages. Nor did his Lordship accept that there was only the stark alternative of either giving a jury no assistance in assessing damages other than explaining in general terms the past history of the different categories of damages and reminding the jury of the need to be fair, or dispensing with juries in relation to issues as to damages.

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# YOUR OWN BUSINESS

## Drop-out with drive aims to float on air

By Barbara Felby

A flat tyre and the search for a compressed air line in working order shaped Mr Neil Troward's future and led to the birth of a company with a turnover which will approach £2 million this year.

Mr Troward, a computer sales and marketing expert who had dropped out of city life to run a seaside shop in St Agnes, Cornwall, conducted a survey after having difficulty finding a garage with a working line and discovered that more than 30 per cent were out of order.

Bored with quiet winters at the shop, he designed and developed Air Box — a self-contained color operated tyre inflator — through Cambridge, the company he set up in Redruth, Cornwall.

More than 2,000 machines have been sold to distributors at £695 each. They install the units free of charge on garage forecourts throughout Britain, making regular checks to ensure accurate gauge readings.

The distributor's revenue from the unit is about £70 per month and, based on a percentage of this, garage owners earn between £200 to £300 a year without responsibility. Motorists pay 10p for three minutes.

When Mr Troward first thought of the idea in 1987, he did not realize how difficult it would be to persuade banks to lend him money. He said: "I was laughed out of everywhere when I stated I



Self-imposed pressure: Neil Troward gave up a quiet life for Air Box scale, mainly to France, but if Carebridge's offer of £200,000 for 20 per cent of shares in a venture capital company is successful, the export figure for the end of 1990 could exceed £250,000.

At the end of 1988, turnover topped £500,000 with profits of £147,000. This year, turnover is on target for nearly £2 million. Mr Troward exports on a small

### BRIEFINGS

A major concession for small firms when uniform business rates are phased in under the community charge has been made by the Department of the Environment after pressure from the National Federation of Self-Employed and Small Businesses. Firms with a new rateable value of up to £15,000 in London and £10,000 elsewhere will not have rates increased by more than 15 per cent a year, after allowing for inflation, in the transition from the old rating system. The provision allows firms to claim a 15 per cent plus inflation will add up to nearly 25 per cent. He says: "While there is a certain amount of relief in knowing that we will lose only an arm instead of an arm and a leg, that relief is obviously tempered by the fact that losing the arm still hurts."

How small businesses should go about getting news stories and photographs into newspapers and magazines is set out in a free booklet issued by PNA, a company that specializes in distributing press releases. Copies are obtainable from Mr Mark Longmore on 0177 2821.

Midland Bank has launched a high interest account for small businesses currently paying up to 11 per cent gross, 8.5 per cent net. Customers can get a return on surplus cash by transferring money to their ordinary business current accounts.

Interest is calculated monthly and is at present 9.25 per cent gross for under £1,000, 10.25 per cent from £1,000-£4,999 and 11 per cent from £5,000 and over.

## Persistence pays as demand for staircases grows

# Spiralling trade winds its way towards foreign shores

By Our Industrial Staff

Mr Eric Nicholls and his father, Russell, have travelled the world — by spiral staircase.

The partners have visited such diverse locations as the British Embassy in Cairo and a library in Warsaw thanks to their business of designing and developing the staircases with stainless steel handrails.

Spiral staircases have graced medieval castles to Victorian houses. Today, there is an increasing demand for their installation in new developments such as residential, shopping and office complexes.

Mr Eric Nicholls said: "Distance is not a problem, but generally about half of our work is carried out in London and the Home Counties, with contracts being received through architects and construction companies, including John Laing, Costain and Fairclough."

The staircases, average about £3,000 for a typical external fire escape, rising to £20,000 for a big feature stairway.

Four years ago, Mr Nicholls left his banking job and a year later joined forces with his father who had been in the spiral staircase construction business for many years.

Spiral Construction. Advice on marketing, finance and general management was given to them by the Rural Development

Commission Business Service. Mr Nicholls recalled: "We had problems at the outset obtaining contracts and it was also difficult obtaining payment once the contract had been completed."

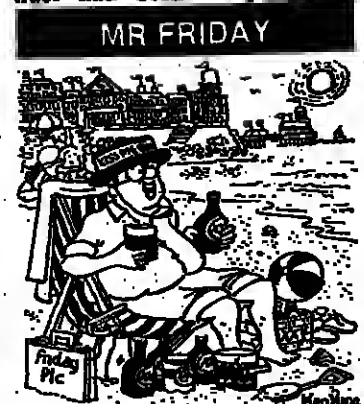
A waiting period of anything up to five months is not unusual in this trade. Another problem facing Spiral Construction was long "lead-in" times.

After their initial involvement during the planning stage of a building, the company would then have to wait for near-completion before the stairway could be installed.

Mr Nicholls said: "It was sheer dogged persistence that kept us going. But now a steady flow of orders include some from local and health authorities, Body Shop and the British Geographical Society. This year saw the completion, at a cost of £44,000, of a 65-foot staircase which Mr Nicholls believes to be the tallest in the country — built inside a water tower at Exeter, Devon."

This was followed by a 60-foot staircase built inside the Gothic Tower at Surrey at a cost of £20,000. Turnover figures rose from £65,000 in 1987 to £200,000 last year. By the end of this year, the company anticipates annual sales of about £300,000.

Mr Nicholls feels that at this level the business will have breached a meaningful barrier and be truly consolidated. It should enable them to look more to overseas work to build the business further.



This is my one perk of the year — I take myself on a work's outing!

### FOUR WHEEL DRIVE

Continued from page 29

RANGE ROVER V8 4000 cc, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 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